THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

BLACKOUTS IN UKRAINE AS RUSSIA LAUNCHES FIERCEST ATTACK IN MONTHS

Russia on Sunday launched a massive drone and missile attack targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure, killing two civilians. Russia launched 120 missiles and 90 drones, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. Explosions were heard across the country, including in capital Kyiv, the key southern port of Odesa, as well as the west and central regions. It was the biggest missile and drone attack on Ukraine since August | P9

SHAH HOLDS KEY MEET AS MANIPUR SIMMERS

Cancels Maha poll rallies, rushes to Delhi to hold high-level meeting

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

Amit Shah

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday cancelled his campaign in poll-bound Maharashtra and rushed to Delhi to hold a high-level review meeting on the fresh violence in Manipur. Sources said Shah sat down with senior officials to take stock of the situation, and directed them to take all possible measures to bring back normalcy in the strife-torn state.

It is learnt that Shah has called another meeting on Monday for a detailed discussion on the state's law and order situation.

Meanwhile, the director-general of the Central Reserve Police Force, Anish Dayal, was sent to Imphal to assess the security situation in the state, which has been witnessing intermittent violent incidents since May 2023 following the ethnic clashes between Meitei and Kuki communities.

Tensions escalated in Manipur on Saturday following the recovery of the bodies of six individuals, who were reportedly abducted and killed by militants in Jiribam.

On Saturday, irate mobs attacked the residences of state ministers and MLAs. The protesters also attempted to storm Chief Minister N Biren Singh's house, prompting security forces to respond with tear gas to disperse the crowds.

The fresh incidents of violence took place on Saturday night even as an indefinite curfew was clamped after people, agitated by the killing of three women and children each by militants in Jiribam district, attacked the residences of three state ministers and six MLAs earlier in the day.

The angry mobs torched the houses of PWD Minister Govindas Konthoujam at Ningthoukhong, Hiyanglam's BJP MLA Y Radheshyam at Langmeidong Bazar, Wangjing Tentha's BJP MLA Paonam Brojen in Thoubal district and Khundrakpam's Congress MLA Thokchom Lokeshwar in Imphal East district, according to officials. On Sunday morning, there was a tense calm in all five districts of the Imphal Valley, where the curfew was imposed and internet services were suspended following violent protests after the discovery of the bodies of six people who were allegedly abducted and killed by militants in Jiribam.

Last week, Manipur police said it shot dead 10 militants.

NPP withdraws support to Biren Singh-led govt

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE National People's Party (NPP) on Sunday withdrew its support to the BJP-led government in Manipur saying it has "completely failed" to resolve the crisis and restore normalcy.

In a letter addressed to BJP president J P Nadda, NPP chief and Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma expressed deep concern over the prevailing law and order situation in Manipur, where innocent lives have been lost and people are going through immense suffering. "...we strongly feel that the Manipur government under the leadership of Shri Biren Singh has completely failed to resolve the crisis and restore normalcy. Keeping the current situation in mind, the NPP has decided to withdraw its support to the Biren Singh-led government with immediate effect," the letter read.

The NPP has seven MLAs. The BJP-led government's survival will not be threatened by this development as the NDA still has 46 members in the 60-member House. As there is an apprehension of further attacks, security has been beefed up outside the houses of the legislators in the Imphal valley.

Test missile being fired from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast | PTI

India tests hypersonic missile, joins elite club

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT & MAYANK SINGH
@ Bhubaneswar/New Delhi

IN a significant demonstration of India's growing military prowess, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Saturday successfully flight-tested the country's first long-range hypersonic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha coast.

The test missile was launched from a ground-based mobile launcher positioned at the launching complex-IV of the Integrated Test Range at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island around 6.55 pm on Saturday.

The missile, developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Hyderabad along with other DRDO laboratories and industry partners, can carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 km, an official readout said.

At present, only a few countries like the US, Russia and China, have hypersonic missiles. These missiles can travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound or roughly around 6,200 kmph). With such extreme speed, manoeuvrability, and the ability to fly at lower altitudes than traditional ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles are harder to detect and intercept. P5

Three students drown in M'luru resort pool

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

THREE engineering students from Mysuru, who were enjoying their weekend at a beach resort near here, drowned in the swimming pool of the property on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as N Keerthana (21), from Devaraj Mohalla in Vijayanagara; MD Nishitha (21), from Kurubarahalli; and S Parvathi (20), from K R Mohalla.

According to the Ullal police, the incident occurred around 10.05 am, at Vazco Beach Resort in Peribail, near Batapady in Someshwar village.

CONTINUED ON P5

Max temperature will rise 1.5°C by 2047, projects report

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

THE average annual maximum temperature will increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2057, under the 'Middle of the Road' emission scenario (where society is assumed to take moderate steps to cut emissions). The more extreme 'Fossil Fuel Development' (society relying heavily on fossil fuels for energy) emission scenario predicts that the temperature will rise a decade earlier, by 2047, reveals the Climate Change Projections for India (2021-2040) report of Azim Premji University, released on Sunday.

States like Karnataka, Gujarat, parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, including parts of Ladakh, will experience an increase in precipitation by 20 to 60 per cent, according to the report.

The new climate data offers critical insights into how climate change will impact the country over the next two decades, revealing key information about India's climate, detailing how extreme weather events -- like heat waves, droughts, and intense rainfall -- could affect communities, agriculture and natural resources. P2

EXPRESS READ

Delhi min Kailash Gahlot quits AAP

NEW DELHI: In a jolt to AAP ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, state Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot quit the party on Sunday, alleging "political ambitions" have overtaken its commitment towards people | P8

EXPRESS INTAKE

CM: BPL cards of only those ineligible will be withdrawn | P4

AP cops intensify crackdown on abusive social media posts | P5

Anil Ambani's Reliance Group sets up centre for growth | P10

Man dies at work, body dumped in front of his house

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

THE body of a 69-year-old daily-wage labourer, who fell seriously ill and allegedly died at his workplace, was brought in a pickup truck and dumped on the road in front of his house, without even his family members being informed. The incident was reported on Saturday in Chikkamudnoor village of Puttur taluk in Dakshina Kannada district.

The deceased has been identified as Shivappa, a resident of Salmara Tarigudde, who was working at a mill owned by Henry Tauro. P3

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

INAUGURATION BY
SHRI SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT
19TH - 21ST NOV, 2024 | BANGALORE PALACE

IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF
SHRI D. K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Starting tomorrow, break boundaries at Asia's Largest Tech Conclave!
Inauguration at 10:00 AM, Bangalore Palace

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Dr. Anna Christmann
Member of Parliament and Commissioner for Start-ups and the Digital Economy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Germany

Ms. Alexandra Dublanche
Vice President in Charge of Recovery, Economic Development, Attractiveness and Innovation for Paris Region, France

Shri Santhosh Kumar
Managing Director, Texas Instruments, India

Shri Sriharsha Majety
Co-Founder & CEO, Swiggy

TECH SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

International Exhibition
Startup Springboard
Multitrack Conference
Product Launches
STPI IT Export Awards
TCS Rural IT Quiz
Smart Bio Awards
Bio Posters & Bio Quiz

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

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ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 18.11.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Kartika • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Thrutheeya 9.50 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Mrigashira 7.14 pm • Moon in Kataka Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 19°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Cloudy.

Sunrise 06.19 am
Sunset 05.50 pm
Moonrise 06.14 pm
Moonset 08.42 am

Changes in precipitation to impact agri

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE western part of India will experience a significant increase in precipitation, compared to most of the eastern and northeastern parts, said Prof. Santonu Goswami, Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability, Azim Premji University.

Changes in precipitation patterns can have a significant impact on Indian agriculture, in which half of the population is employed, the report said. The projections examine two Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) scenarios--SSP2-4.5 (moderate emissions and adaptations) and SSP5-8.5 (high emissions with heavy fossil fuel reliance). Under the high emissions scenario, 249 districts in India will experience an annual maximum temperature change of one degree Celsius or more. Sixteen districts, mostly in the Himalayan states, are projected to experience an annual maximum temperature change of 1.5 degree Celsius or more, with the highest being Leh at 1.8 degree Celsius. The winter minimum temperature is projected to change by 1.5 degrees Celsius or more in 162 districts, with the highest of 2.2 degrees Celsius in Anjaw district in Arunachal Pradesh.

Twenty-five districts spread across the coastal states and eastern Himalayas will experience more than 31 degrees Celsius summer wet bulb temperature, posing serious threats to human health, the report revealed.

The states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Ladakh are likely to experience severe flooding due to a notable rise in annual precipitation. Additionally, the increased soil erosion from precipitation will decrease soil fertility and agricultural productivity. Increased precipitation in higher altitude states like Ladakh will trigger worrying scenarios of climate-induced disasters like landslides and flooding, that can cause significant loss of traditional mud houses of rural populations, posing a threat to their lives, as per the report.

Clean-up call: Apts, corporates receive notices on garbage cess

BSWML levies fee to be paid with retrospective effect from April 1

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THOUSANDS of apartments and corporate offices in the city received notices this week regarding garbage cess from the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) carved out of the BBMP three years ago, to individually handle waste. It has levied a fee to be paid with retrospective effect from April 1. BSWML has also sought details from the owners within 7 days about the total waste generated and the manner in which they were disposed.

TNIE was given access to a copy of the notice, which specified two different kinds of fee to be paid -- Rs 3 per kg if the apartment has adopted in-situ processing and Rs 12 per kg if the in-situ disposal of waste has not been adopted within its premises. The notice has also mandated submission of notarised affidavits in case no disposal is done in-house. Those doing in-house processing have been asked to submit annual returns for the fiscal 2023-2024.

The notice also stated that it was being issued under section 285 of the BBMP Act 2020, BBMP Stormwater Management bylaws 2020 and under rule 15 (f) of the SWM Rules 2016.

Meanwhile, apartment representatives were aghast over the tone and content of the notice received. Shobha Raghuram, CEO of Saahas Zero Waste, which is a service provider for multiple corporate firms and Tech companies told TNIE, "The communication received by our clients is equivalent to a legal notice. We have been busy filing responses on behalf of all the firms this week on the manner in which they dispose off the waste generated," she said.

Kiran Kumar, an apartment owner at Rajarajeshwari Nagar said, "All the apartments in ward no. 198 have received this notice. Only those having Organic Waste Composters (which convert waste into manure) within their premises will pay Rs 3 while the rest have to pay Rs 12. They have given us a list of responses to be filed and they will soon be invoicing the Resident Welfare Associations based on the responses we send." He added that for a few days, those working for BSWML began collecting garbage in their area in September and were erratic. "We asked them to stop and urged the empanelled vendors of BBMP who were taking care of it earlier to continue doing so?"

Abdul Aleem, president of Changemakers of Kanakapura, which has nearly 100 RWAs under its fold said, "We already pay a garbage cess with the annual property tax. We have also been paying the BBMP empanelled vendors for garbage collection?"

The notice said the fee has to be paid to the bank of BBMP or at any PoS (Point of Sale). It also warned of penalty in accordance with the SWM bylaws 2020 and action to be initiated to recover environmental compensation.

FLYING ON WHEELS

Bikers take part in Round 5 of the 2024 MRF MOGRIP FMSCI Indian National Supercross Championship in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

BDA recovers property worth Rs 65 cr

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Saturday recovered encroached property worth Rs 65 crore at JP Nagar 8th Phase. An official release said a demolition operation was carried out in the 2nd Block. Unauthorised structures were built on survey no. 38/1 of Kothanur village in Uttarahalli Hobli of the 8th Phase, it said.

BCU invites applications

Bengaluru: Bengaluru City University Library invited applications from eligible candidates for three library apprentice trainee positions for the academic year 2024-25. Candidates with Master of Library & Information Science or three year diploma in Library & Information Science after PUC may download the application from the website www.bcu.ac.in, self-attest and submit to the Registrar.

92-yr-old goads postal dept to open first post office in Kudlu

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

MONDAY will mark a red-letter day for Kudlu, with the opening of the first post office in the area, a residential locality in Bommanahalli constituency. A resident of Silver Country Road, V Janakiraman, a 92-year-old nonagenarian was the sole driving force behind the initiative. In 2022, he met LK Dash, Postmaster General of Bengaluru HQ Region, and pressed on the need for such an amenity in. Janakiraman, a retired Chief Electrical Engineer from the Southern Railway Zone, told TNIE, "This is a largely residential area with many senior citizens residing here. The nearest post office is 8 kilometres away in the heart of Bommanahalli and many senior citizens have savings accounts in the post office and use them frequently. Travelling so far was such a big inconvenience for the elderly," he said.

Referring to his friend and senior citizen Tapan Mukherjee, who resides in a block nearby, he explained the difficulties of not having a post office in the vicinity. Tapan's struggles encouraged Janakiraman to take immediate action. "I visited the PMG office and met Dash, who was very receptive to the idea. Within a month, he ensured a post box in the area as we did not have that too. Within 19 months, a full-fledged post office is set to open in our area," he said.

The new PO will be located at Vastu Enclave. The senior citizen said, "It is fantastic to know that the first PO will be opened soon. It will be 1.5 km from my residence. However, I am still fit and will be able to walk the distance." He adds that the venue chosen is a rented facility in a commercial locality.

BDA land goes under hammer, 19 acres fetch Rs 630 crore

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

AT a recent e-auction held by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), two land parcels totalling 19 acres in Konnadaspura, went under the hammer for Rs 630 crore -- a whopping 250 per cent above the guidance value for the area. In another development, BDA decided not to go in for across-the-table sale of its villas, priced at Rs 1 crore and above, at Hunnigere in Dasanapura hobli, due to overwhelming demand from the public, and will e-auction them.

A senior official said one of the land parcels measured 11 acres, while the other plot is 8 acres. "The guidance value here is just Rs 3,000 per sqft. At our auction on October 30, we fixed the base price at Rs 6,500 per square feet. We got a good response, with bidder Ananthay Properties quoting Rs 7,500 per sqft. This is 2.5 times the market value and is a crucial source of income for the BDA. We can utilise the money to complete our infrastructure projects," he said. The developer has already paid 25% of the sum and the remaining would be paid shortly, he added. It is a big plus for BDA, another official said. "Generally, we develop sites into layouts and then sell them to the public. In such instances, we get only 55% of the revenue as the remainder goes into developing the layout, with the required infrastructure. The revenue from direct auction of sites is 100 per cent," he explained.

Hunnigere villas get huge response

Due to overwhelming queries from the public for its villas at Hunnigere, located between Tumakuru Road and Magadi Road, BDA has decided to drop its regular allotment mode of 'First Come, First Serve' for home buyers. "We decided to e-auction the villas as it could help us realise better returns. The notification urging the public to register for e-auction was issued on November 9, and December 13 is fixed as the last date. The live auction will happen on December 16 and 17, up to 5pm," said an official.

The project includes 170 4BHK houses, 1523BHK houses and 320 1BHK houses. "BDA is keen on grossing more than Rs 1 crore for the 4BHK houses," he added.

BDA has begun the process of demolishing illegal encroachments on its properties and taking control of them. "They will be auctioned at periodic intervals," the official said.

Coconut-pluckers to driverless tractors, Krishi Mela ends on high note

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

FROM per-drop irrigation systems to donkey milk-based soaps and creams, and a coconut plucker stand that can reach up to 80 feet, Krishi Mela 2024 showcased how innovation is transforming agriculture.

On Sunday, the final day, Bengalureans thronged the University of Agricultural Sciences' Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus to explore over 700 stalls featuring cutting-edge technologies. The Krishi Mela, held from November 14, saw a total footfall of 34.13 lakh over its four-day span, generating a turnover of 6.17 crore. Throughout the event, attendees enjoyed a total of 53,111 meals.

Farmers were especially captivated by robotic solutions like boom sprayers and automated bird and monkey scarers which use sound to simplify farm work. A significant highlight of the fair was the presentation of a high-tech coconut plucker stand, capable of reaching up to 80 feet. The 'carbon-fibre telescopic plucker' can harvest coconuts and arecanut from tall trees, with the ability to collect up to 70 kilograms of produce at once. The fair also featured a machine capable of producing 300 eco-friendly coconut plates per hour, offering a sustainable solution to the growing problem of plastic waste.

Bengalureans at Krishi Mela 2024 at GKVK on Sunday | ALLEN EGENUSEJ

Among the other innovative technologies displayed was 'Nero,' which is equipped with in-built sensors that monitor critical environmental factors like soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and overall soil quality. By sending real-time data to a mobile app and indicating through colours, Nero helps farmers manage crop health and make informed decisions about irrigation, pest control, and fertilisation.

In addition to the coconut plucker, another standout innovation at the mela was a coconut harvesting drone, designed specifically for coconut trees, which can fly to the top of trees and harvest coconuts with precision.

Another highlight was a Mahindra Mitra tractor designed to hold up to 173 litres of insecticide, specifically built for spraying crops like pomegranates, grapes, and oranges. This driverless tractor allows for efficient and uniform application of pesticides across large fields, ensuring better crop protection.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

18th November : An imaginative Sun forms an interesting comparison with an inspirational Moon. The first is energetic and expansive, the second sensitive and imaginative. In my book, that makes for an interesting day! The downside is a lack of practical sense. That's why I'd advise caution in all things!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Planetary aspects are hopeful, optimistic and inspired at the beginning of the week and you're likely to be in an expansive and extravagant mood. Friends will be urging you to experiment with new enterprises. It's all down to two planets - Mercury and Neptune which, between them, massively enhance your imagination.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The theme for this week must be reconciliation, especially for those of you who feel that you have been the victim of quite undeserved criticism. It takes more courage to turn the other cheek than to seek revenge, so don't let other people pressurise you into doing what you know is wrong.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your life is by its very nature complicated, which is why interpreting your planetary picture at the moment is so difficult. The problem is that, while you are being urged to take a gamble, there is no absolute or ultimate guarantee of success.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The main focus of activity must be your immediate environment, which doesn't only refer to family chores or domestic decorations and repairs: you may also be getting more involved in some sort of community action; perhaps you're coming to see the wider world as a sort of extended part of your own family.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Daily trends are ruled mainly by the Moon's rapid motion. Today it is issues close to home which dominate your thinking. The obsessive planet Pluto will be turning your mind to what you can do to improve the situation, encouraging you to accept only the real thing; no imitations, please!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Spending money must now be more important than saving it. How is this? Are there perhaps items you can buy which will dramatically improve your lifestyle or enhance the quality of life? Luxury seems to be more important than necessity, so relax a little.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The current planetary alignment is ideal for those of you who are participating in a spiritual quest, but not of much help to those who are bogged down with practical cares or snowed under with chores. A word of advice, though - try and take whatever time off you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Current transits highlight the higher side of life, the human quest for Truth. The ideal way to express your planetary patterns for the next few days is to willingly sacrifice your interests in the service of those who are genuinely in need of sympathy and support.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The current celestial picture is highly expansive. As far as you are concerned this might mean that your investments or savings may yield a greater than expected return, but also that, over the next month, your spending may spiral out of control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
If worldly ambitions seem to be meeting practical problems, don't kick against fate. Instead, switch your attention to long-term plans: if you could wish for anything in the world, what would it be? World peace, perhaps? Or at least an end to a confrontation in your own life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
It is your inner world of dreams and beliefs that is most important at the moment. Unfortunately, if you are primarily concerned with daily trivia, the subtleties of the present time may pass you by. Raise your sights as high as you can and look at the bigger picture.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
This week's stellar alignments are ideally suited to your imaginative and impractical nature. My advice is to press ahead with social, professional and financial schemes, but not to go beyond the planning stage just yet. Give yourself at least until next week.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

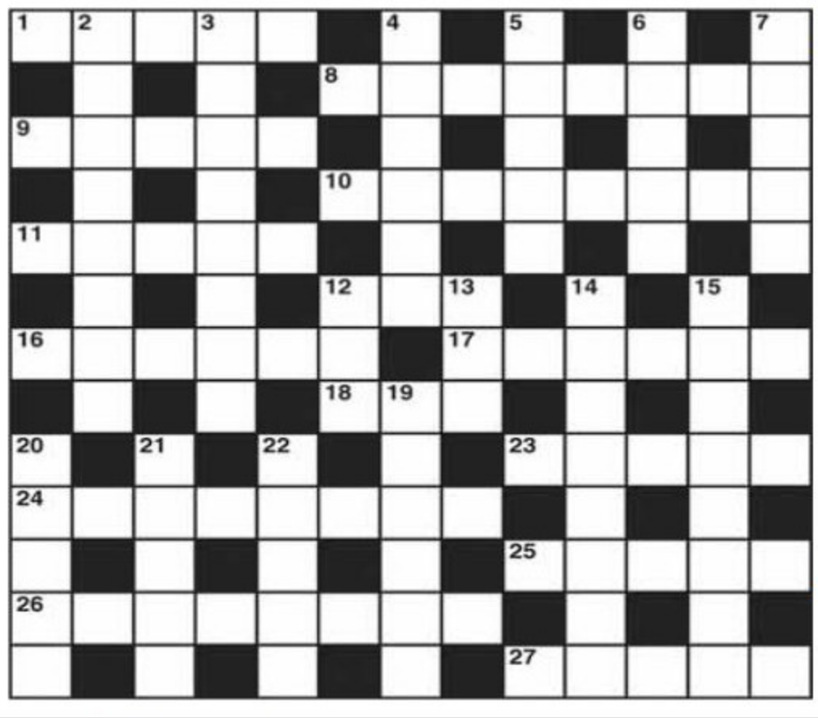
				5			6	
	9		6		8		7	
						4		5
	1		3		9			
	3	8	4		7	1	2	
			1		5		8	
7		1						
	4		2		3		1	
	6			4				

7	1	9	8	6	2	3	5	4
4	6	2	3	9	5	1	8	7
8	5	3	1	4	7	9	6	2
6	9	4	2	7	3	5	1	8
5	3	1	4	8	6	7	2	9
2	7	8	5	1	9	4	3	6
1	8	6	7	3	4	2	9	5
3	4	5	9	2	8	6	7	1
9	2	7	6	5	1	8	4	3

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 It can result when many stampede (5)
8 Fiancee at home and cared for (8)
9 Share out a tax return (5)
10 A last drink for the head on retirement? (8)
11 Make a declaration in bad taste (5)
12 A woman appears as a prosecutor in US (3)
16 Grouse about n'er-do-wells (6)
17 It's in action certainly (6)
18 It's a bit of a shame he can't act (3)
23 African graduate's first class (5)
24 Open clash that reveals the strength of one's hand (8)
25 Tough serviceman allowed in free (5)
26 Set off in good time towards dawn (8)
27 Impressive sign of temper (5)

DOWN
2 Uncle perhaps? That would be telling (8)
3 Bob saves the traveller's time (5,3)
4 Take turns off to relax (6)
5 Capital invested in 1857 (5)
6 Order cathead to be immersed in the rising tide (5)
7 Well up in a small department (5)
12 A quiet wood (3)
13 I am about to prepare to fire (3)
14 A visionary transaction is included in it (8)
15 It may be cultivated for example in a rum cocktail (8)
19 A dandy and a bore to boot (2,4)
20 He finds seats for us above the woman (5)
21 Means of communication with a walrus (5)
22 Leave word in France (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Indicatory, 6 Swim, 10 Crepe, 11 Tragedian, 12 Stampede, 13 Regal, 15 Insects, 17 Topiary, 19 Kashmir, 21 Bittern, 22 Rodeo, 24 Pyramids, 27 Expensive, 28 Siege, 29 Late, 30 Celebrated.

Down: 1 Inch, 2 Duettists, 3 Cream, 4 Tatters, 5 Reagent, 7 Wiring, 8 Minelaying, 9 Decrepit, 14 Tinker Bell, 16 Compound, 18 Amendment, 20 Reptile, 21 Burmese, 23 Depot, 25 Miser, 26 Reed.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ARYRC

TBROO

CEFETD

CRIBEK

This sure beats driving.
Right on time, as always.
GERMANY'S RAILWAY COMPANY, DEUTSCHE BAHN, HAS HAD A RELIABLE ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TRACT PROOF DEVICE POUNCE
Answer: The photographer wanted everything to be flawless and — PICTURE PERFECT

The Jeevan Bheema Nagar police arrested a 17-year-old student for desecrating a Nada Devi Bhuvaneshwari statue on BEML Main Road on Thursday. The incident occurred on Thursday night, and the boy was arrested on Friday. It has been found that the boy had failed his SSLC exams thrice, and believed that the deity was responsible for it

FOCUS ON CHILD ISSUES AS MLAs RAISE QUESTIONS IN HOUSE

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

BETWEEN February 2023 and July 2024, Karnataka's legislators raised 495 questions about child rights and welfare out of a total of 7,803. The number of child-related questions steadily grew, from 40 in February 2023 to 180 in July 2024.

Child rights experts noted that many of this year's questions focused on POCSO cases, reflecting a rise in reports of child abuse. They also emphasised the need for more attention to funding, particularly for children with disabilities, which are classified into 21 categories.

Majority of the MLAs raised concerns specifically about the state of education for children including the closure of government schools and urged that these schools be rejuvenated rather than shut down.

BJP MLA Krishna Naik K, JDS MLA Samriddhi V Manjunath, and Congress MLAs Banakara UB and Mahantesh Koujalagi, highlighted the shortage of classrooms and teachers, emphasizing the need for more infrastructure and resources to improve the quality of education.

While Congress MLA Haris NA, who raised the highest - 13 questions, highlighted the rise in child rights violations and called for comprehensive schemes to improve schools and anganwadis, Congress MLA from Indi constituency, Vijayapura district, Yeshwanthrayagowda Patil urged the establishment of a mother-and-child hospital for safe deliveries and criticized the halt of the 'Suchi' scheme (free sanitary napkins) and demanded its resumption.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Nagasimha G Rao, Director of the Child Rights Trust acknowledged that while there has been an increase in child-focused questions in legislative discussions, key issues, particularly about protection of children, still require greater focus.

Rao pointed out that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act identifies 21 different categories of disabilities, but children with disabilities continue to face significant challenges. "Many children with physical disabilities, for example, struggle to access schools or healthcare services because buildings lack necessary infrastructure, such as ramps, elevators, or accessible toilets. Similarly, children with hearing or visual impairments face barriers due to the lack of teachers trained in sign language or Braille," he said, adding that the lack of resources and coordinated services makes it difficult for children with multiple disabilities, leaving families to navigate these challenges largely on their own.

He stressed that while there is a focus on upgrading schools and labs, the allocation for disability-related services remains insufficient.

Tragedy averted as vintage car catches fire near Hampi

HOSAPETE: A major tragedy was averted after a car that was taking part in a vintage car rally caught fire on the outskirts of Hampi. No injuries were reported. The car is from Belgium. Barring this incident, which caused tense moments for the organisers, participants and the general public, the rally went off peacefully. Tourists and locals in Hampi and Hosapete witnessed the rally on Sunday. Over 40 vintage cars, which travelled from Bengaluru, arrived in Hampi on Saturday, as part of a rally organised by the Federation of Historic Vehicles of India. The rally is aimed at creating awareness and appreciation for vintage cars. After stopping at Hampi, the participants were scheduled to proceed to Chikkamagaluru. On Saturday, the vintage cars went through the main streets of Hosapete, drawing crowds of enthusiasts and onlookers.

Fire engulfs a vintage car during its participation in a vintage car rally on the outskirts of Hampi on Sunday | EXPRESS

Woman accuses man she met on app of raping her

ENS @ Bengaluru

A woman has filed a complaint against a man, whom she met on an online dating app, over allegations of raping her. The Madivala police registered a case on Sunday.

According to the complaint, the woman, a native of Uttarakhand, works for an event management company in the city. In March, she met a man named Nihal Hussain, a digital marketing professional, through an online dating app. The two regularly kept in touch, and Hussain invited her to a party at a city hotel. It is alleged that Hussain spiked her juice and raped her. The victim also claimed that after she became pregnant, Hussain pressured her into aborting the baby, promising to marry her. However, recently, the victim felt that she was being ignored.

A police officer said that based on the victim's statement, the police have registered a case and are investigating from all the angles. He further said that the victim had previously registered a similar case with the police in 2023.

STARTING-UP

Preparation under way for the 27th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024, at Palace Grounds on Sunday. The event is on November 19-21 | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

National award-winning child actor Rohit battles for his life after accident

MYSURU: National award-winning actor Master Rohit sustained critical injuries in a road accident near Palahalli in Srirangapatna on Saturday night. The actor is under treatment in an ICU of a private hospital in Mysuru. According to family sources, Rohit underwent a surgery for a severe jaw injury, with a plate being inserted to stabilise the damage. His grandmother, Shakuntala, shared that the doctors have advised him to consume only a liquid diet for the next eight months. "When we visited him, he signalled us not to worry, which gave us courage," she said. The accident also left Rohit's mother, Chayalakshmi, with serious injuries, including fractures in her arm and leg. She is set to be shifted to Bengaluru for further treatment. Yashas, a close friend of Rohit who was also in the car, escaped with minor injuries. The accident occurred when Rohit, his mother, and friends were travelling in a car from Pandavapura to attend a Karnataka Rajyotsava Day programme at Aradhana College near Hosahalli. The car, driven by lecturer Srikant, collided head-on with a tourist bus from Kerala near Palahalli. All occupants of the car suffered injuries.

Truck driver lynched after minor mishap, five arrested

ENS @ Belagavi

A tragic incident unfolded on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway near Katabli in Belagavi district recently, when a truck driver was chased down, and killed brutally, following a minor traffic accident. The incident took place around 3.30 pm on Friday, and shook commuters using the busy highway.

The deceased has been identified as Azim Malikrihan Ippery (23), a resident of Sankeshwar. Within eight hours of the murder, the police arrested five suspects, identified as Parasappa Satyappa Naik (32), Halappa Laxman Halyagol (32), Irappa Basavanni Naik (34), Hanumant Vitthal Idli (30) and Amit Deepak Shinde (36).

According to the police, a truck driven by Azim reportedly brushed past a motorcycle and another vehicle near Benkoli. Instead of stopping, Azim continued driving, which angered the occupants of the vehicles. Enraged, they pursued the truck for over 1.5 km, and were joined by their accomplices.

The truck was eventually intercepted near Katabli, where the assailants forced Azim to step out of the vehicle, and attacked him with sticks and kicked him repeatedly, killing him on the spot.

The Yamkanmardi police, led by inspector Javed Mushapuri, acted swiftly to apprehend the suspects.

'Labourer suffered a heart attack'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TAURO had reportedly taken Shivappa in a pickup truck for work at Salmara Tauro Industries, where the latter was assisting in plastering work. Shivappa, however, took seriously ill and allegedly died there, and his body was brought back on the same pickup truck and dropped on the road, in front of his house. Immediately, his daughter, Usha, and his wife found him dead there, and brought the body into the house with the helps of locals, said Usha, in a complaint to the Puttur police.

Soon after the incident, Dalit organisations gathered outside the Puttur Town police station and protested against the inhumane act of Tauro, and sought action against him. Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police Yathish N said they have arrested the driver of the pickup truck, while Tauro is absconding. "The exact reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained, and prima facie negligence is seen on the part of the employer. The mill owner is absconding," Yathish said. Meanwhile, a postmortem confirmed that Shivappa had died of a heart attack.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mr. B. Krishnamurthy, son of late T. Byrappa, about 61 years old, residing at Nagasandra Post, Thippenahalli Village, Bangalore-560 073 hereby certify that:

The property in Survey No. 5 of T. Dasarahalli village in Yeshwanthpur hobli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring 60 (Sixty) feet- East-West: 30 (thirty) feet, North-South: 40 (forty) feet, is a self-acquired property of Smt. Siddagangamma through a sale deed registered by Sharadamma in the Office of the Deputy Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, dated 20.02.1980, No. 1, Book 3203, pages 195 to 196, No. 8175/1979-80.

The original deeds relating to this property have been lost accidentally. Therefore, a complaint was lodged at the concerned police station vide report No. 1335267/2024. If anyone finds the said original documents, please deliver them to the above address or call on 9740505567

PUNJAB & SIND BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Zonal Office, 770A, Dewa Tower, First Floor, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600002. E-mail:zo.chennai@psb.co.in

NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF ELECTRICAL AUDITORS/ CONSULTANTS/FIRMS FOR CONDUCTING ELECTRICAL AUDIT OF OFFICES & BRANCHES UNDER CHENNAI ZONE

Bank wishes to Empanel Electrical Auditors/Consultants/Firms under its Chennai Zone for conducting Electrical Safety Audit (ESA) of Offices & Branches located under Chennai Zone. The eligible and interested applicants may download the form from Bank's website **www.psbindia.com**
Last date for submission of applications will be **28th November 2024.**

-Sd-
Zonal Manager, Chennai

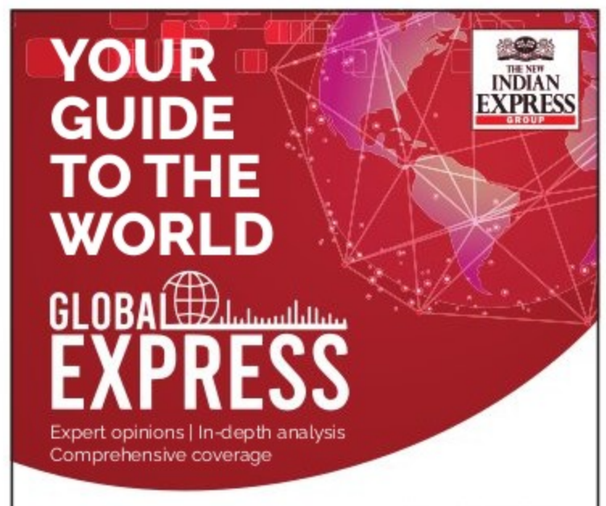
UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No.U85110KA1995PLC018175

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by Unimoni Financial Services Limited on **21.11.2024** at 10:00 am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Auction Centre Address & Loan Nos: BANGALORE - Koramangala (BAK- Bldg No 343, Ist Floor, Ist B Main Road, 7th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095, Contact No : 9945569710) 2107822, 2107971. BANGALORE - Marathahalli (BMI - Site No 21, Shop No 3 & 4, Ist mtk Reddy Complex, Outer Ring Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037, Contact No: 9845996600) 2115100, 2129406.

(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)



CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,85,35,751/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Five Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty One only)** as on **12-11-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **13-11-2024** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. H M S Silk Industries, No.52, Melekote, Rehmaniya Nagar, Kanakapura - 562117. Also at, M/s. H M S Silk Industries, Sy. No. 221, Aralasandra Village, Kanakapura, Ramanagara - 562117. No.2) Mr. Majeed Shariff, S/o. Mohammed Shariff, Ward No. 12, Melekote, Near Urdu School, Kanakapura - 562117. No.3) Mrs. Majira Banu, W/o. Majeed Shariff, Ward No.12, Melekote, Near Urdu School, Kanakapura - 562117 No.4) M/s. MMS Silk Industry, No.236, Hannur Belathuru Village, Kollegala, Ramanagara, Karnataka - 571440.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. Majira Banu, W/o. Majeed Shariff)

All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Municipal Katha No. 8678/7383/A, PID No. 36-532-551, Measuring : East to West 15.240030 Meters and North to South 18.288037, situated at Ward No. 13, A. K. Colony, Melekote, Kanakapura Town, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : House of Puttaswami, North by : Road , South by : House of Chikkavenkataiah.

Reserve Price : Rs.70,00,000/-
(Rupees Seventy Lakh only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Majeed Shariff, S/o. Mohammed Shariff)

All that piece and parcel of the RCC Ground Floor, Commercial-cum-Residential Property bearing Old Municipal Khatha No. 5471/3667A Measuring : East to West 50 feet and North to South 54 feet together with 2700.00 sq. ft. situated at Rehmaniya Nagar, Melekote, Ward No. 12, Kanakapura. Bounded on : East by : Municipal Road, West by : House of Fayaz, North by : House of Fazil, South by : Municipal Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.85,00,000/-
(Rupees Eighty Five Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
06-12-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru - Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 15-11-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

PUNJAB & SIND BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

PUBLIC NOTICE 18-11-2024

This is to inform that our Ulsoor branch (B0991) located at G.K.Plaza, No.18, S.V.Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore- 560008 is going to be merged with **Indira Nagar Branch (B1403).** The merger will be effective from 23-12-2024. The address of Indira Nagar Branch is as follows:-

Punjab & Sind Bank
No. 1312, Ground Floor, Paramahansa Yogananda Road, Eshwara Layout, Opp. Kaveri School, Indira Nagar, Bangalore -560038.

-Sd-
Zonal Manager

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, Bengaluru, 4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru 560001.

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DERTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. as amended

RC/195/2024. **26-07-2024**

BANK OF BARODA
Versus
M/S NEETHRA DESIGN

In the Matter of : (CH-1) BANK OF BARODA (ERSTWHILE VIJAYA BANK) INDIRA NAGAR BRANCH, NO.325, CMH ROAD, INDIRA NAGAR, BENGALURU-560038.

APPLICANT BANK/CERTIFICATE HOLDER

VERSUS

To, (CD-1) M/S.NEETHRA DESIGN REPRESENTED BY ITS PROPRIETOR SMT.REKHA P. SHETTY W/O. SRI. PRABHAKAR V. SHETTY NO.1/1, SHAMRAJ BUILDING, 2ND CROSS, APPANNA LAYOUT, MAHADEVAPURA, BENGALURU-560016.
ALSO RESIDING AT : NO.156, 1ST MAIN ROAD 5TH CROSS, AMBEDKAR NAGAR, RAMA MURTHY NAGAR, BENGALURU-560016.
ALSO RESIDING AT: NO.17, 2ND BLOCK, AKSHYA NAGAR KAWDWNAHALLI, BENGALURU-560016.

DEFENDANT/CERTIFICATE DEBTOR

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRTI) in OA/550/2017 an amount of Rs.8873799.43 (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakhs Seventy Three Thousands Seven Hundred Ninety Nine And Paise Forty Three Only) along with cost expenses and future interest @13.55%p.a. compound interest monthly rests w.e.f. 07/11/2016 till realization and costs of Rs. 161405 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty One Thousands Four Hundred Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int. Type/Mode	Int. Rate	Effective date	Order Date	Liablility Type	Rc Amount (Rs.)
(CD-1) M/S NEETHRA DESIGN REP BY ITS PROPRIETOR SMT REKHA P.SHETTY	Compound Interest (Monthly)	13.55% P.a.	07.11.2016	30.06.2023	Fully	8873799.43

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on Within 15 days from the date of publishing for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate /execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **26th JULY 2024.**

(SANJIV KUMAR)
RECOVERY OFFICER-I
DRT-1 BENGALURU

COPY TO :- BANK OF BARODA (ERSTWHILE VIJAYA BANK) INDIRA NAGAR BRANCH, NO.325, CMH ROAD, INDIRA NAGAR, BENGALURU - 560038.

You are directed that the payment made, if any, by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the payment position regularly.
The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the verification of the Recovery Officer. You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars wherefrom the recovery of the debt is to be made.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Srinivasa T C, 2) Mrs. Lakshmi Kanthamma	Loan Account No. 46459630000581 46459410000210 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5, 00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Janjar No.75/1, situated at Theneyur Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Measuring 40 Feet X 60 Feet and **Bounded by the: East by:** Property belongs to Karagappa & Venkatamma, **West by:** Property belongs to Savitha, **North by:** Road of Narasimhamurthy, **South by:** Property belongs to Shekhar Gowda.	Date of NPA: 01-11-2024 Demand Notice Date: 15-11-2024	Rs.9,16,287.81 (Rupees Nine Lakh Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven and Paisa Eighty One Only) due as on 14-11-2024
2	1) Mr. Ambareesh M, 2) Mrs. Pavithra M	Account Number: 46459420000137 46459360022565 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.77,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing No.115/1, Situated at Chikkathaggali Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, presently comes under the limits of Orohalli Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Property Belongs to Ramesh, **West by:** Property belongs to Ashwathappa, **North by:** Property Belongs to Muniyamma and Road, **South by:** Property Belongs to Bhagyamma. Measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 25 Feet.	Date of NPA: 28-09-2024 Demand Notice Date: 14-11-2024	Rs.5,09,107.40 (Rupees Five Lakh Nine Thousand One Hundred Seven and Forty Paisa Only) due as on 13-11-2024
3	1) Mr. Narasimhaiah, Also at: M/s. Flower and Vegetable Business, 2) Mrs. Vijaya V	Loan Account No. 46459430000101 46459410001074 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.71, Sl.No.66, Situated at Ganjarahalli Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Shivanapura Village Panchayath and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** House of Lakshmaiah, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House of Sundaramma. Measuring East to West 32 Feet and North to South 44 Feet.	Date of NPA: 01-11-2024 Demand Notice Date: 13-11-2024	Rs.9,78,224.93 (Rupees Nine Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four and Ninety Three Paisa Only) due as on 11-11-2024
4	1) Mr. Annappa M, Prop. M/s. Aishwarya Pork Star, Also at: M/s. Aishwarya Pork Star, 2) Mrs. Kaushlya A	Loan Account No. 45349440000047 45349410000854 Loan Amount: Rs.11,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property being Middle Portion of the Property bearing House List No.1, Katha No.16/1, V P Katha No.16/1/16/1/1, situated at Hommadevanahalli Village Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to West: 16.5 Feet and North to South: 50 Feet, Totally Measuring: 825 Sq.feet and **Bounded as follows: East by:** Remaining Portion of House List No.1, **West by:** Property belonging to Sri M. Srinivas, **North by:** Government Road, **South by:** Property belonging to Papayya @ Papanna.	Date of NPA: 01-11-2024 Demand Notice Date: 14-11-2024	Rs.10,72,699.17 (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine and Seventeen Paisa Only) due as on 13-11-2024
5	1) Mrs. Rajamma M, 2) Mr. Muniraju B	Loan Account No. 31879630000516 31878820009672 Loan Amount: Rs.3,00,000/- Rs.33,675/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khatha No.181/38/1 Measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 20 Feet totally Measuring 400 Sq.feet, Situated at Billjali Village Huralichikkanahalli Grama Panchayath, Hesaraghatta Hobli Bangalore North Taluk and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Property belongs to B Bairanna, **North by:** Property belongs to B Hucchappa, **South by:** 6 Feet Pathway.	Date of NPA: 28-09-2024 Demand Notice Date: 14-11-2024	Rs.2,40,651.99 (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty One and Ninety Nine Paisa Only) due as on 12-11-2024

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 18.11.2024, Place: Bangalore Rural & Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy lashed out at the State Governement saying there was complete financial mismanagement in the state and asked where the money paid by people as taxes was going. "I am not saying that the government is facing financial crisis due to implementing the guarantee programmes. My question is where is the money collected by way of taxes from people going?" he said

PEOPLE POWER SAVES THE HILLS

Led by saffron-clad pontiffs of mutts, people have joined the mass movement against mining to save the hillocks of Kappatagudda

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@Kappatagudda (Gadag)

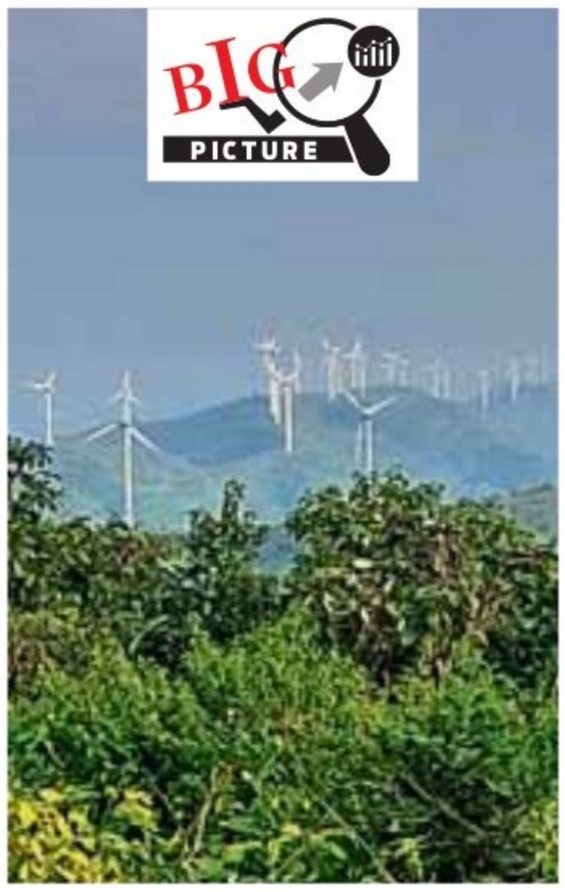
THE State government recently decided not to permit mining in Kappatagudda, a hilly area spread across Gadag, Mundargi and Shirahatti taluks with a unique landscape, like Sandur. The region needs separate planning to ensure conservation and sustainable living.

Formed billions of years ago, Kapppatgudda has been exploited for centuries for its rich iron ore and gold reserves. It is divided among two sections of people -- those who practice sustainable living and those who want to exploit it for its rich mineral wealth of iron ore and gold. On October 7, the state declined to lease out the forest area of Kappatagudda.

"It is the victory of the people of this region. Decades ago, we had said we don't want mining here. It is such a relief that the government decided in our favour," said Shivakumara Swamiji, pontiff of Nandiveri Mutt, Kappatagudda.

"This is a result of several decades of mass movement, which woke up the common man. It is a victory of sustainability against forces which would have destroyed the very livelihood of the people, a struggle for protection of the environment and sensitive ecology, and the landscape was perhaps formed billions of years ago. If allowed, mining would have been destructive," said Manjunath Naik, a botanist in Gadag, researching rare medicinal and aromatic plants. The landscape here is unique, a piece hewn off the Western Ghats. Plant species of the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats co-exist here, he said.

Yeshapal Ksherasagar, field director, Bhadra Tiger Reserve, and former DCF, Gadag, who compiled a list of the medicinal plants here said, "Kappatagudda is indeed a piece of the Western Ghats, and its environment of the ghats makes it unique."



'DESTINY SENT ME HERE'

My destiny was here as I was sent to head this mutt by Thontada Siddalingaswamiji, my guru in 2003 as seventh pontiff of this mutt. When I came here, I saw movement of mining trucks in this remote place. I gathered information about the mining lease owners. The mining lease was obtained in the 1970s by Komalanna Doddanavar with a senior Congress leader Shankaranand, then a Union minister. The lease period was for just 'one day' in the 1970s, but used for mining for almost a decade until renewal in 1980s -- 20 years and beyond. Doddannavar's kin continued mining until we protested and stopped it.

— Shivakumara Swamy of Nandiveri Mutt

What ecology needs

Protection and recognition of traditional doctors, improving livelihoods by ensuring minimum dependency on forests. The tourism plan for Kappatagudda has been pending for several years and should be implemented at the earliest to provide livelihood for the people

KAPPATAGUDDA OVER THE YEARS

32,093 hectares spread across Gadag, Mundargi and Shirahatti, 750m above sea level

A unique ecosystem landscape, rich in biodiversity

Over 500 species of medicinal plants found

Harbours at least 200 traditional medicine practitioners, well-versed in identifying and using herbs

1882 18,720 hectares of Kappatagudda declared reserve forest by then British government

Mining for gold began in early 1900s, Dharwad Gold Mines Limited mined for 8 years

Sangli Gold Mines too sought mining lease, pending since

2008: Survey conducted for gold mining

2015 'Conservation Reserve' tag accorded to 17,872 hectares of forest in Mundargi, Shirahatti taluks in Gadag, but government withdrew it on November 4, 2016

Mining applications started pouring in after mining in Sandur started getting saturated in 2009

Locals started demanding protection tag for Kappatagudda

Locals intensified protest with pontiffs of Dambal Mutt, Gadag, and Nandiveri supporting the movement in 2017

State government promised to reconsider withdrawal

October 7, 2024: State cabinet resolved that mining will not be allowed

Pre-history and History

Even more important is its historicity. Professor Ravi Korisettar, senior archaeologist and geologist, said Kappatagudda was formed billions of years ago and has prehistoric and historical significance. "This patch is similar to the Sandur schist belt, also known as green stone, and is rich in minerals and precious metal. The historical town of Lakkundi was found during the Kalyana-Chalukya period, and more are waiting to be discovered," he said.

It is known for rare herbs used by ayurvedic and many traditional medicine practitioners. The Karnataka forest department has already documented and photographed most of these herbs. "We had a checklist of over 500 herbs, of which we managed to document about 375. We could only photograph these 375," said FD Yashpal.

Rare and endangered

"It is a storehouse of extremely rare flora and fauna. The Indian frankenstein tree, or Indian Dhammar, known as 'dhoopa' in Kannada, is found here. It is a distinct plant, a dry area plant which is different from the one in Western Ghats. It is an IUCN red-listed species," said botanist Manjunath.

According to Manchegowda HP, public health researcher, the area is full of medicinal practitioners due to the abundance of medicinal plants available here. "There are about 34 villages -- Kadakol, Hosalli, Doni, Doni Tanda, Dambal, Nagavi, Kadampur, Churchihal, Kalakeri, Koralhalli, Chikkavaddatti, Hire Vaddatti, Attikatti, Murudi Tanda, Papnashi, Tegginabhavanur, Nabhapur, Harogeri, Tamragundi, Baradur and others. "My study shows that these villages have at least 10-15 vaidyas who treat people for various diseases. I have so far met about 154 of them," he informed TNIE.

Lingraj Niduvani, grandson of well-known Gadag-based traditional medicinal practitioner Basavaraj Konchigeri, says he has documented over 300 such traditional vaidyas. Lingraj, who has done his PhD on traditional medicinal systems in Karnataka, from Hampi University, and is faculty in Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Gadag, says local doctors say many of them have specialized in curing specific diseases and use the medicinal plants. "I was trying to bring them together, unite them, but they did not want to come out. They are doing a service to society. They are dependent on Kappatagudda. This makes it even more important for conservation. The hills have been exploited for centuries. We hope it will remain intact at least from now onwards for the people of this region," he said.

Field Director Yashpal said medicinal plant diversity is important as these plants grow in mineral-rich areas. "These herbs are medicinally important, considering they have certain active ingredients -- Rawalpina serpentina used for snake-bite grows in places other than Kappatagudda, but the one grown in Kappatagudda has active ingredients, because this place is rich in minerals. Ancient Indian scriptures mention Jesta, which has zinc. Swarna Bhasma (gold powder) in milli or micro quantities is good for human health. Preserving them will save them for future study, research and human use," he said.

People's movement

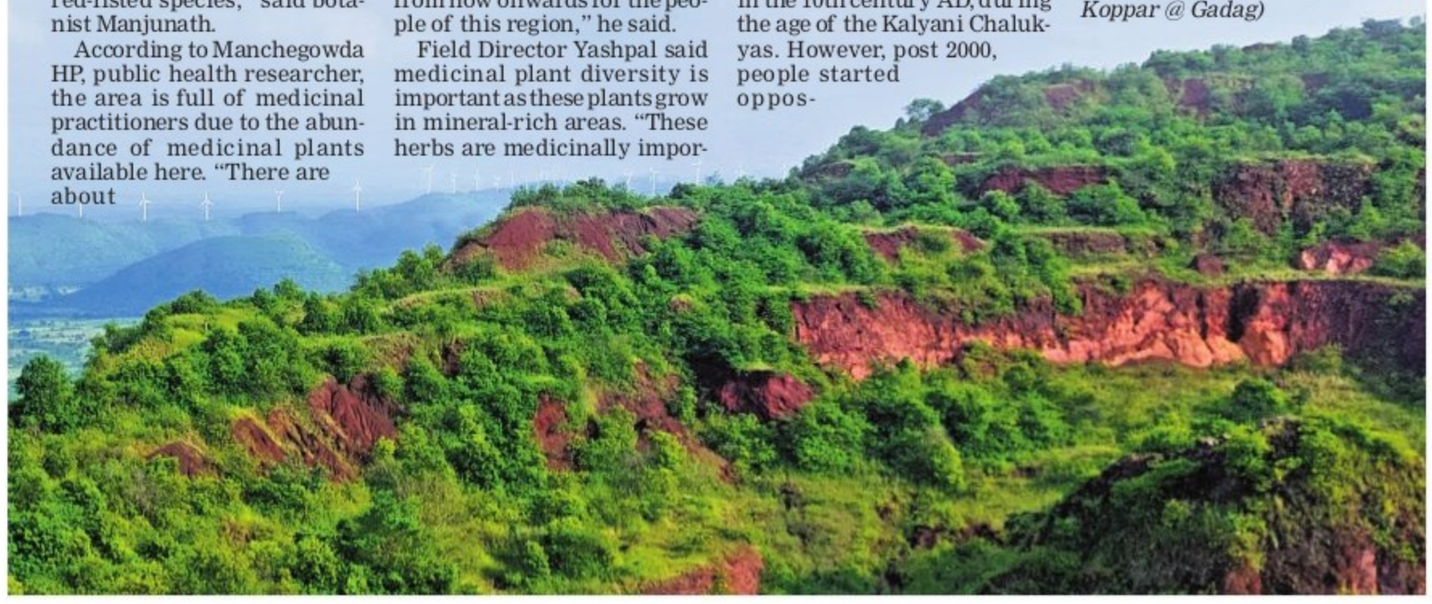
Kappatagudda's tale is of conservation versus mining -- a people's movement where saffron-clad saints led the common man to save the forests and ecology, between 2009 and 2024, which brought the government to its knees. The movement began at various places at the individual level, and snowballed into a mass movement as there have been constant threats to mine both iron ore and gold here.

The region has a long history of mining, dating back to the British era, when gold was mined in 1900. However, mining for gold and iron ore goes back thousands of years to the Neolithic period, and later on in the 10th century AD, during the age of the Kalyani Chalukyas. However, post 2000, people started opposing mining, when several mining firms started eying the place for iron ore and gold. In 2015, the government accorded the 'Conservation Reserve' tag to 17,872 hectares of forest in Mundargi and Shirahatti taluks in Gadag in 2015.

But the government did a volte-face on November 4, 2016, by withdrawing the reserve tag and this led to a mass protest in 2017. Individuals like Lingraj Naduvani started protesting against mining activities. Having learnt about the effects of mining in 2004, when he was a student, he returned and started several movements like Chipko, letter writing and even fasting to save the mountains of Kappatagudda along with his friends Ravikanth Angadi, an advocate and activist, and others. He was supported by the pontiff of Thontadarya mutt Jagadguru Siddalinga Swamiji.

Shivakumara Swamy, pontiff of Nandiveri Mutt in Mundargi taluk, is another crusader who lived amid the Kappatagudda forests, far from human habitation, and joined the chorus against mining. Before joining the agitation, he had been protesting in Kappatagudda, where mining was going on illegally.

(With inputs from Raghottam Koppar @ Gadag)



Joshi: Congress govt is unable to manage guarantees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hubballi

UNION Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday said that the Congress government in Karnataka is unable to manage the guarantee schemes it promised to the people ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections and that the state is heading towards bankruptcy. Joshi alleged that the Congress-led government appears to be withdrawing guarantee schemes one after the other as it is unable to deliver the guarantees.

"The Congress government announced 10 kg rice but failed to deliver on the promise. The state is currently distributing only the 5 kg rice provided by the Centre," he said.

"The Union Government spends Rs 2.11 lakh crore annually on food security, providing free food to 50% of the urban population and 75% of the rural population under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana," Joshi added.

The minister also criticised the Shakti scheme, saying that RTC buses were not being operated as desired in several parts of the state. "Several routes have been dropped. Salaries of drivers and conductors are being paid on time," he added.

CM: BPL cards of only those ineligible will be withdrawn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bagalkot

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that the State Government will withdraw the Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards of only ineligible persons, and there will be no impact on eligible cardholders.

Speaking to the media in Bagalkot before taking part in a Cooperative Week celebration programme, the CM regretted that misinformation was being circulated on the issue. "Our focus is solely on weeding out ineligible BPL cardholders. The Food and Civil Supplies Department is looking into it. No final decision has been taken yet. It is simple... do not give BPL cards to those ineligible, but ensure that those deserving are not deprived of it," Siddaramaiah added. The CM further questioned whether BPL cards should be provided to those who pay taxes and to government employees.

On Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka claiming that the Lokayukta probe has cleared the previous BJP government from 40% commission charges, the CM said, "Releasing accused individuals due to lack of evidence does not mean no wrongdoing happened. Evidence and witness testimony are crucial in such cases," the CM said.

On the BJP challenging him to prove his allegation that Rs 50 crore bribe was offered to 50 Congress MLAs to topple his government, the CM said, "Efforts were made... but it failed. BJP tried Operation Kamala, but it did not succeed."

CENTRE HAS DEPRIVED STATE OF NABARD AID: SIDDU

Stating that the Cooperative sector is meant only for state governments and not for Centre as there is no provision for Centre to have a Cooperative Ministry, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that despite that, the NDA government at the Centre constituted a Cooperative Ministry and made Amit Shah the in-charge minister. Speaking after inaugurating the 71st Cooperative Week programme on Sunday, the CM said that NABARD, which comes under the Union Government, is supposed to help the cooperative sector by lending loans. "But last year, the NABARD released a loan of Rs 5,600 crore... but this year it was only Rs 2,340 crore, which is 58% less," Siddaramaiah said. The CM said he has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman not to "cheat" farmers by reducing the loan amount.

Didn't win solely on 40% commission charges: Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AT a time when the Opposition BJP is accusing the Congress of coming to power in Karnataka by using the 40% commission allegation, Home Minister **Dr G Parameshwara** has said that the Grand Old Party won the 2023 Assembly elections banking on its guarantee promises.

Strongly denying BJP's charges, Dr Parameshwara said, "We went to every household and assured them of our guarantees... which we implemented after coming to power. It is wrong to say that we came to power only because of the 40% commission charges against the BJP."

The minister recalled that it was the then contractors association president who made the 40% commission charges against the BJP and had even written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about corruption in the state. "We made the allegation based on this letter," he added.

On the Waqf land row, Dr Parameshwara said that the BJP was using the issue for political gains. "They (BJP) might use this issue to disturb peace and communal harmony in society," he added.

On the BJP demanding that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah release evidence to substantiate his allegations that the BJP offered Rs 50 crore each to 50 Congress MLAs to topple the government, Dr Parameshwara said that PM Narendra Modi should first release documents to show that the Karnataka Excise Department collected Rs 700 crore to fund the Congress in Maharashtra elections as alleged by him.

Nandi statue atop Chamundi Hills being anointed with various ingredients on Mahabhisheka in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

EXPRESS READ

Ashoka: Set up SIT to probe ₹700cr bribery charges

Bengaluru: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka has demanded that the State Government constitute a SIT to probe the Rs 700 crore bribery allegations made by the Federation of Wine Merchants' Association. Ashoka said that the 40% commission charge levelled by the Congress against the previous BJP government has been proved false by the Lokayukta. Ashoka said that CM Siddaramaiah, who made the 40% commission allegations against the BJP, himself is 100% corrupt. Ashoka said that the 40% commission charges ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls were part of the Congress' toolkit. He also hit out at the Congress State Government for demanding proof from PM Narendra Modi, who highlighted the Rs 700 crore bribery charges during one of his campaigns in Maharashtra. "This is not an allegation made by the PM, but by the vendors' association," he said. **ENS**

KSRTC has decided to launch a daily service between Bengaluru and Nilakkal for Sabarimala pilgrims from November 29. Tickets can be booked at various reservation counters in Bengaluru and throughout Karnataka, besides private reservation counters in neighbouring states

SEA EXPLORATION

Harbour trial for 'Samudrayaan' next month in TN

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

INDIA'S tryst with deep sea exploration will begin with the harbour trial at Kattupalli harbour in Tamil Nadu next month. The harbour trial for 'Samudrayaan' - a three-member deep sea exploration that is scheduled for 2025 and 2026, is likely to be held in December at Kattupalli harbour, north of Ennore Port, said National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Director Balaji Ramakrishnan.

"The harbour trial will be held at a depth of 10-12 metres inside the ocean in a controlled environment. We have been conducting laboratory tests, but next month, the assisted submergence will be held at a depth of 10-12 metres inside the ocean. The trial will check the integration of all the components of the submersible, functioning of the four propellers, buoyancy that will govern the vehicle's stability inside water etc," said the top ocean scientist.

He added that the harbour trial itself will be a big experiment for ocean researchers as the vehicle 'Matsya 500', weighing a little over 25 tonnes will be lowered into water and checked for stability under floating conditions. 'Matsya 500' is made of steel and has been developed at NIOT. "One of the critical components of 'Matsya' is the personal sphere that comprises steel sheet pieces welded to form petal and crown construction," added Ramakrishnan.

The harbour trial will be followed by deep sea exploration at a depth of 500 metres in the Bay of Bengal in 2025. The final, three-member-manned mission 'Samudrayaan' will be conducted in 2026, when the submersible 'Matsya 6000' will go down 6,000 metres (six km) into the ocean.

'Matsya 6000' is being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as a unique, sphere-shaped submersible made of special-grade titanium alloy, which is lightweight and much stronger than steel. The submersible will be tested and certified by DNV (world-class Norwegian classification society and a recognised advisor for the maritime industry) to go down 6,000 metres inside the ocean.

Titanium is lighter, but stronger than steel, and enables the weight of deep-diving vehicles as low as possible. It requires minimum maintenance; has an extended life cycle, and has incomparable anti-corrosive properties.

'Samudrayaan' is a project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is being implemented as part of the Rs 4,800-crore 'Deep Ocean Mission'. NIOT is an autonomous society under the MoES.

Earlier, Indian ocean scientists have conducted deep sea explorations in international vehicles, of the US and France. 'Samudrayaan' will be the first venture in a 'Made in India' submersible, making India the sixth country in the world after the US, Russia, France, Japan and China to deploy a three-member-manned submersible.

AP cops form teams to identify abusive posts

Between Nov 1 and 17, more than 150 cases registered under various sections of IT Act: Cop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

INTENSIFYING the crackdown on social media abusive posts defaming political leaders, their family members and other individuals, state police and special wings of Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (APCID) formed special teams to identify such defamatory posts and register cases against them.

Not just the YSRCP social media activists, police are acting tough on both ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janasena party social media activists for posting abusive posts and unverified news pertaining to political developments and other issues.

According to sources in the police department, both law and order police in all 26 police units and APCID launched special drive to identify such malicious and abusive posts on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and allegedly found more than 1,000 such handles posted abusive posts against women, chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, HRD minister Nara Lokesh, deputy chief minister K Pawan Kalyan, family members of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, and other leaders.

Also, cybercrime police are

keeping watch on certain persons whose posts were found derogatory in nature and warned them not to repeat such posts failing which stringent action would be initiated against them. "Between November 1 to 17, more than 150 cases under various sections of the Information Technology Act have been registered and around 20 persons were arrested for posting offensive content on social media targeting certain people intentionally. The posts are vulgar, filthy and objectionable and also can create tension among groups, religions and between parties. We are categorising the posts based on the content and filing cases accordingly," said a senior police officer on the condition of anonymity.

On several occasions, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has expressed serious concern on the growing malicious propaganda and personal abuse beyond acceptable limits.

Missile covered around 1,400 km in first attempt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DEFENCE Minister **Rajnath Singh** described the missile test on Saturday under the country's first long-range hypersonic mission as a "stupendous" achievement and a "historic moment". "The flight data obtained from down range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal maneuvers and impact with high degree of accuracy" the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

Sources told this newspaper that the test was "a stupendous success as the test missile covered around 1,400 km in its first attempt validating all its subsystems and exhibiting excellent terminal manoeuvres".

Also, it was the first time the DRDO conducted the experimental trial of an indigenously-designed and developed missile after sunset.

'Pool lacked safety gear, lifeguard'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal, who visited the spot, told the media that the three friends entered the pool around 10 am, and one of them waded into the deep end and drowned. The two others, while trying to save her and each other in the process, also drowned.

(From top) N Keerthana, MD Nishitha, S Parvathi

"None of them knew how to swim," sources said, adding that the trio had booked the resort online for the weekend, and checked in on Saturday. Meanwhile, CCTV footage from the property shows the trio entering the pool, and trying to catch hold of a safety ring kept at the deeper end, and one of the women moves in that direction to fetch it, before crying for help. The two other women rush to her aid, and also drown, unable to return towards the shallow end in time. The deep end has a depth of 6-ft.

"Through the CCTV footage, we learn that the women had cried for help, but there was no staff around to rescue them, nor any safety gear was made available at the pool. There was also no lifeguard on site, neither any markings indicating the pool's depth. We have taken resort owner Manohar into custody and are investigating," Agrawal said.

TEST OF STRENGTH

Wrestlers compete at the national wrestling (Nada Kusti) competition at KEA Grounds in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

India's longest glass bridge to open in Visakhapatnam

DHARMENDRA REGANA @ Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM is set to get India's longest cantilever glass skywalk bridge, spanning 50 metres, near the Titanic Viewpoint at Kailasagiri. The bridge, which will come up at an estimated cost of ₹6 crore, will offer panoramic views of the sea and surrounding hills, enhancing the tourist experience in the region. Construction of the bridge is scheduled to commence on November 18.

Designed to boost the city's tourism appeal, the project will showcase Kailasagiri's natural beauty, while providing a thrilling adventure for visitors.

A cantilever glass skywalk bridge is a pedestrian bridge that extends horizontally from a supporting structure, such as a cliff or a building, without additional support from beneath.

The project is a public-private partnership undertaking between the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority and RJ Adventures, a joint venture of SSM Shipping & Logistics and Bharat Mata Ventures Private Limited.

Elaborating on the project, Bharat Mata Ventures Managing Director Jomy Poonoly said, "This bridge will be the longest cantilever glass bridge in India, designed to accommodate up to 40 people at a time. It will not only offer visitors breathtaking views, but also position Visakhapatnam as a premier destination for adventure tourism."

California based Fordor places Kerala on its 'No List 2025'

ANU KURUVILLA @ Kochi

IS Kerala falling victim to overtourism? Has the surge in tourism activities aggravated natural disasters, particularly in eco-sensitive areas in the state? If Fordor's travel guide is anything to go by, it would seem so.

Fordor's, a California-based online tourism information provider, has come out with a 'No List 2025' which mentions 15 destinations from across the world, including Kerala, where tourism is placing unsustainable pressures on the land and the local communities.

As per Fordor's, the locations named in the list are popular for a good reason. "They are stunning, intriguing and culturally significant. However, some of these highly coveted tourist spots are collapsing under the burden of their prominence," it says.

Kerala has been placed under the head 'Destinations Beginning to Suffer'. Placing Kerala in the list, the international travel guide has cited the landslides in Wayanad and the shrinking lakes and backwaters to make its point.

The other destinations that have been deemed 'beginning to suffer' are Kyoto and Tokyo in Japan, the British Virgin Islands, Agrigento in Italy, Oaxaca in Mexico and Scotland North Coast 500.

It quotes environmentalists and experts to highlight how the surge in tourism has aggravated the impact of natural disasters. "And the development is largely unregulated, unsustainable and harmful to the communities and ecosystem of the state," says the producer of English-language travel guides, founded in 1949, about Kerala.

It quotes the data released by the Kerala tourism department on tourist arrivals in the state in 2023. Last year, the state hosted a record-breaking 21.8 million domestic tourists and 6,49,057 international visitors. As per the department, the expectations are even higher this year. "The disaster occurred in a region suffering environmental degradation due to overdevelopment. Numerous government reports have warned of these dangers over the past decade, but have often been ignored," says Fordor's. It notes that nearly 60% of India's 3,782 landslides between 2015 and 2022 have occurred in Kerala.

The travel guide also points towards another key attraction, Vembanad Lake. "The backbone of Kerala's backwater tourism is shrinking due to floods, illegal constructions, and increased and unchecked tourism. The proliferation of houseboats and resorts is threatening the lake's health," it says.

According to Prashant Vasudev, former tourism director, the landslides have adversely affected the arrival of tourists to Wayanad. "What the government needs to do is bring a control system in the tourism sector," he says.

EXPRESS READ

17 students ill from suspected food poisoning in Wayanad, hospitalised

Kalpetta: Seventeen students from WOUP School in Muttil, Wayanad, are suspected to have contracted food poisoning after consuming food at the school. The affected students exhibited symptoms such as fever, vomiting, and diarrhoea since Sunday morning, prompting immediate medical attention
Subsequently, they were admitted to Kainatty General Hospital for treatment. The school PTA president reported that around 600 students had eaten the food served at the school, raising concerns about the scale of potential exposure.

Gym owner, relatives booked after woman sustains severe burns during steam bath

Madurai: The Madurai city police registered a case against a gym owner and three of his relatives on Sunday, after a gym-goer woman allegedly sustained severe burn injuries on her hands in an accident while taking a steam bath in the gym. The accused persons are gym owner Gowtham and his wife, his brother Ashok and his wife Priya, residents of Madurai. According to the complaint, V Vinitha, who suffers from health issues due to hormonal imbalance, joined the gym run by Gowtham in February this year. On March 19, she decided to take a steam bath, as recommended by the gym owner, to improve her health condition.

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R.O.No.- 1018 | e-Tender Notice | Date: 16.11.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (I&P-II), Ujjwal, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun invites online bid from interested parties. Summary of tender is given below:
Tender No: 02/UJVNL/EE(I&P-II)/2024-25
Name of work: Providing Consultancy Services and Preparation of Comprehensive and Bankable Detailed Project Report of Lakhwar-Vysi PSP (300 MW) and Vyasi-Katapathar PSP (150MW) located in District Dehradun of Uttarakhand.
Estimated cost: Rs. 6,80,00,000 /- plus GST Extra(Rupees Six Crore Eighty Lakh only excluding G.S.T)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 25.11.2024 from 15.00 Hrs. onwards
Last Date for submission of bid on website: 21.12.2024 upto 17.00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in".**
Executive Engineer (I&P-II)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:CEE/RT and R&D/EE/KCO-79/2024-25/400 Date: 16.11.2024
BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bid on electronic mode for the following work against following Enquiry Number:

Tender Enquiry No./Name of the Work
KPTCL/2024-25/RC/ WORK_INDENT 1473
Dismantling, Transportation(To & Fro) Repair of Faulty Power Transformer, Assembling, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of Repaired Power Transformer of 220 kV & above Voltage class at KPTCL Destined Station on Rate Contract Basis.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to the KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **21.11.2024 @ 15:00 hrs**. The Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **17.12.2024 @ 15:00 hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.
RT & R&D, KPTCL,
5th Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: EEE/BMWND/AEE-3/2024-25/4414 Date: 15.11.2024
PUBLIC CAUTION NOTIFICATION
It is hereby notified for the information to the General Public that, the KPTCL has laid the 66kV, 1000sqmm Single circuit UG cable from ongoing 220/66/11kV Nagarbhavi Substation to existing 66/11kV Srigandhakaval substation for a distance of 2.673Km. The said UG Cable passes via Nagarbhavi, Ring Road and Annapoorneshwari Nagar. **The said 66kV SC UG cable line will be energized on or after 20.11.2024.**
Hence the General Public/State Government /Private Organization are hereby informed to keep away from the above said EHT UG cable route and not to undertake any excavation in the above UG cable route.
Any untoward incidents or accidents which may occur during the course of excavation/executing work by anybody/ agency along the cable route without following guidelines, **the KPTCL will not be held responsible** and damage charges for the KPTCL assets shall be Borne by the executing body/agency only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)
Bengaluru Major Works North Division, KPTCL,
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka, Kolar-563 103.
Email: bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in
Website:www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in
No. BNU/Affiliation/1619/2024-25 Dated:14.11.2024
NOTIFICATION
Sub: Inviting Applications for Affiliation for the year 2025-26–reg
Ref: ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂ:ಇಡಿ 212 ಯುಎನ್ ಇ 2024, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.10.2024
Bengaluru North University invites applications (UUCMS-On-Line Application) for various types of affiliation from the affiliated Colleges / Managements situated within the Bengaluru North University jurisdiction viz., Bengaluru Urban District (C.V.Ramannagara, K.R.Puram, Mahadevapura, Pulikeshinagara, Sarvagnanagara Assembly Constituencies.), Bengaluru Rural District (Doddaballapura, Devnahalli And Hoskote Vidhanasabha Constituencies), Chikkaballapur and Kolar Districts for the Academic year 2024-25 as prescribed in Sections 59 and 62 of the KSU Act, 2000 and also specified in the K.S.U. (Amendment) Act 2015.
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1.Starting date for online Application: **25.10.2024 2.** Last date for submission of online application: **20.11.2024 3.** With penal fee **Rs. 10,000/-** last date for submission for online payment: **22.11.2024 4.** Last date for submission of Six (6) sets of hard copies to the University along with enclosures: **25.11.2024 5.Online website:https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/** 6. RTGS/NEFT/Cash deposit 7. Refund of affiliation fee is as per the statutes pertaining to affiliation of Colleges/ Institutions of Bangalore University 8. Fee paid by the college towards in-eligible courses will not be refunded / adjusted 9. For Further details / Clarification, if any please contact **9035415764, 9945226666 & 7892087298.**
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EDITORIAL

"Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell" — Edward Abbey

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SPEAKING ORDER BY SUPREME COURT AGAINST BULLDOZER JUSTICE

'BULLDOZER justice' by the executive was troublesome at so many different levels that it was surprising how the drastic punishment was allowed to be replicated in several states for years. It militated against the basic principles of the rule of law, right to life, right to shelter, and the rights of an accused protected by the Constitution. The ultra-slow grind of the windmill of justice ended last week when the Supreme Court declared that snap demolition of homes of any accused or even a convict was unlawful without following due process. The judges announced a series of safeguards to rein in overzealous public officers who ordered instant demolition.

Dwelling on the constitutional separation of powers, the court said the executive cannot go beyond its remit to become a judge, decide that an accused is guilty, and punish him by demolishing his properties. Since the executive exercises its powers as a trustee of the citizens, its actions must be consistent with maintaining public trust. Arbitrary demolition of houses of citizens only on the ground that they are accused of a crime is contrary to the principles of the rule of law. The bench called out those who failed to follow the basic principles of natural justice, saying it was reminiscent of lawlessness where might alone was right. Even convicts awarded capital punishment have the constitutional safeguard of appeal in higher courts. The right to a fair trial is essential in upholding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties. Besides, how could the family of an accused be denied their right to shelter, it questioned.

The court set a 15-day notice period prior to the razing of a property so as to give the affected party time to challenge the order. Even those who do not wish to contest the order need sufficient time to vacate the premises, the verdict reasoned, adding: "Heavens would not fall on the authorities if they hold their hands for some period." Officials who flout the SC order would be liable to pay compensation out of their pockets. That said, the directions would not be applicable if there was an unauthorised structure in a public place and also in the case of an order for demolition by a court of law. With this speaking order, one hopes bulldozer justice would end for good. Arbitrary action against the rule of law has no place in a civilised society.

LIFESTYLE DISEASES RAISE COST OF HEALTHCARE

KERALA'S famed health indices are being challenged by a rise in incidence of lifestyle diseases and an allied increase in cost of healthcare. A recent survey revealed that out-of-pocket healthcare expenses in Kerala are the highest among states, and more than double the national average. Out-of-pocket expenses are the costs one pays for medical care not covered by health insurance, but these figures also underline the higher cost of medical care in the state. The Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey 2022-23, conducted by the National Sample Survey Office, revealed that Kerala's out-of-pocket expenditure for hospitalised treatment per household per year is ₹8,655 in rural areas and ₹10,341 in urban areas. In comparison, the national average is ₹4,129 (rural) and ₹5,290 (urban). According to another report, Kerala's per capita health expenditure was ₹13,343 in 2021-22—almost four times the national average.

While one factor in the rising healthcare costs could be the growing elderly population, the major contributor is the high prevalence of lifestyle diseases, most of which require lifelong treatment. These—coupled with high cost of diagnostic tests and treatments, the disappearance of not-for-profit hospitals, and a general reluctance to take treatment in government institutions—have pushed up costs significantly. The closure of small hospitals and the emergence of corporate hospitals through acquisitions have adversely impacted costs for people.

Lifestyles diseases should be a worry for a state that boasts of health indicators on a par with the Western world. The second phase of the Kerala government's lifestyle diseases screening programme, found 46.7 percent were susceptible to lifestyle diseases. While 13.15 percent had hypertension, 8.68 percent had diabetes and 5.42 percent had both. Lifestyle diseases are a leading cause of death, accounting for more than 52 percent of deaths in the 30–59 age group, says another report.

The acclaimed 'Kerala model of health' is said to be suffering from what is called "low mortality high morbidity syndrome", where mortality may be low but morbidity, on account of a large proportion of sick population, is high. Dealing with the situation requires a three-pronged approach. One, create awareness about lifestyle diseases and changes required to reduce risks. Two, rationalise prices of treatments and tests in the private sector and establish a monitoring mechanism. Three, encourage people to opt for treatments in government hospitals. Kerala must wake up to the reality and adopt changes to remain healthy and avoid spending disproportionately on medical care.

QUICK TAKE

YEAR OF DEADLY FIRES

TEN newborn babies died last week in a fire at the Maharani Lakshmibai Medical College in Jhansi. Half a year earlier, a similar blaze at a children's hospital in Delhi killed six. In May, almost 30 people including children perished in a huge fire at an amusement park in Rajkot. In all these cases, either the venue had been given a clean bill of safety by local authorities or had managed to stay open despite known lapses. Clearly, the inspectors did not effectively plug serious gaps. Unless the local authorities are held to account after thorough probes, chances are that fire safety would not improve across the country.

As India shapes and strengthens its Ayushman Bharat programme, cancer care has to be firmly positioned amid its range of publicly financed healthcare services

CANCER CALLS FOR A COHERENT HEALTH SYSTEM RESPONSE

K SRINATH REDDY

Distinguished Professor of Public Health, PHFI, and author of *Pulse to Planet*

SOURAV ROY

CARDIOVASCULAR disease, manifesting principally as heart attacks and brain strokes, is the leading cause of death globally. In India too, it emerged in recent decades as the top cause of adult deaths. However, an international collaborative study of 2,00,000 people in 27 countries reported in 2019 that cancer recently overtook cardiovascular disease in high income countries. The study noted cardiovascular disease remained the leading cause of death in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

Cancer is growing as a major cause of disease, disability and death in LMICs too, though it trails cardiovascular disease in the list of killer diseases. The rise in cancer burden in these countries is both due to increasing incidence of new cancers and inability of health services to provide timely detection and treatment. Cancer cases are rising due to higher levels of population exposure to unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, air pollution, environmental toxins, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. An Indian Council of Medical Research study projected a 12.8 percent increase in the incidence of cancer cases in India between 2020 and 2025. In 2022, India had 14.1 lakh new cancer cases and 9.1 lakh deaths due to cancer. These estimates are likely to be short of the real cancer burden.

Decline in cardiovascular mortality rates in high income countries over the past four decades happened not only due to better diets, less smoking and more exercise but also due to many life-saving treatments. Effective therapies emerged from basic and clinical research. They were widely applied, resulting in many deaths being averted. While many behavioural risk factors are common to cancer and cardiovascular disease, highly effective treatments were less visible and impactful in the cancer arena—till recently.

However, the last decade has seen many advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Organ imaging as well as laboratory techniques in tissue histology and pathology have advanced greatly. Integration of clinical data with new molecular data (germ line genomics, tumour genomics, epigenomics, pharmacogenomics and circulating tumour DNA) greatly increased diagnostic precision and personalised approaches to treatment. Artificial intelligence is providing great support for enhancing these diagnostic capabilities.

Novel treatments have emerged, through development of targeted therapies and monoclonal antibodies. Some of these antibodies can destroy the outer wall of a cancer cell while others can block the connection between the cell and proteins that promote cell growth. CAR-T cell therapies are providing a pathway for customising cancer therapy by collecting T-lymphocytes from the patient's own immune system and training them to attack cancer cells. Surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted drug therapies and immunotherapy have now become the five pillars of cancer treatment.

Despite these remarkable advances, access to cancer diagnostics and treatments is still limited for patients in low and middle income countries and for poor people in high-income countries. While treatments for childhood cancers have been shown to be remarkably successful, they are not benefiting many children in low and middle income countries. The World Health Organization reports that while over 80 percent of children with cancer are cured in high-income countries, less than 30 percent in developing countries benefit.

Poor cancer care results from late detection, lack of capacity in primary health care facilities, delayed referrals to more advanced healthcare facilities, limited availability of well-trained personnel and well-equipped cancer care facilities, high cost of tests and treatments, and gaps in follow-up care for treated patients. Palliative care for terminally ill patients is not widely available. Amongst the general public, there is a considerable lack of awareness of the causes, clinical manifestations, facilities and options for care. This results in delayed self-referral for evaluation, inadequate investigations, ineffective treatments and poor health outcomes.

All of these deficiencies are related to the design, resourcing and performance of the country's health system, which is a composite of public, private and voluntary healthcare providers. Central and state governments together provide the governance of this mixed health system. The central government shapes policy and states steer the services, with financial resources flowing from both.

From specialists in cancer diagnostics to frontline health workers and informal care providers, the range of people engaged in cancer care is large, while their numbers are short of need. Their geographic distribution is skewed across states and urban-rural divides. Inability to adopt a pluralistic approach to cancer care deprives the benefits that can accrue from some traditional systems of medicine.

While a national programme for cancer control exists, it has not kept pace with diagnostic and therapeutic advances, nor has it scaled up financial and human resources to needed levels. Primary care services must provide the platform for prevention, early diagnosis, timely referral and continuity of follow-up care. District and medical college hospitals must provide different levels of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic facilities. Private sector's capacity and skills may be engaged as needed, to supplement the public sector's capabilities.

As India shapes and strengthens its Ayushman Bharat programme, cancer care has to be firmly positioned amid its range of publicly financed healthcare services. Cancer-related diagnostics and treatments often become prohibitively expensive for patients and impoverishing for families. Much of the high cost is due to import of equipment, diagnostic reagents and drugs.

Domestic capacity for their production has to be scaled up, including production of biosimilars of highly effective drugs. Pooled procurement of drugs can effectively reduce medicine costs. The National Cancer Grid, a network of over 250 cancer centres in India, piloted pooled procurement of 40 cancer drugs. Median savings of 82 percent were achieved (range: 23 to 99 percent), with an estimated cost saving of ₹13.2 billion. Such practices, if widely adopted, can greatly reduce the financial burden on governments, patients and families.

(Views are personal)
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HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT PALLAVA CAPITAL

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

I bought myself a Kamakshi Deepam last week after years of wanting one. This naturally led to thoughts of the Devi at Kanchipuram, and I remembered a nice story from the holy city's annals. Sometime in the 1960s, a poor bangle-seller wandered from place to place, selling his wares. One day, he wandered into the temple town of Kanchipuram. Somehow, nobody seemed interested in buying anything. Tired and dejected by late afternoon, he sat down at the doorway of the Kanchi Kamakoti Matham.

From deep within, the Kanchi Paramacharya, renowned for his frequently amazing omniscience, suddenly told an aide, "Give the bangle-seller at the gate food and buttermilk. Ask him to wait. Quietly tell the devotees who come for evening *darshan* to buy bangles for their womenfolk in Devi's honour." Of course, they did, and the bangle-seller went away feeling cherished and successful. Not everyone may be in a position to perform great deeds of service, but good thoughts and small, sweet acts of kindness could be the lamps we light.

But a little on Kanchipuram itself. As many know, it's located about a two hours' drive north of Chennai. But there is a larger, deeper context. As mentioned in an earlier column in this series, there are seven *mokshapuri* or salvation cities in India, namely Kashi or Varanasi, Avantika or Ujjain, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Mathura, Dwaraka and Kanchipuram. Out of these, Kanchipuram is the sole *mokshapuri* city present in South India.

The present Kamakshi temple is variously attributed to the Pallavas and the Cholas, to well over a millennium ago but its site and structure, according to literature, was even more ancient. The central image of the goddess is considered *swayambhu* or self-manifested and of imponderable antiquity.

Kanchipuram was the capital city of the Pallavas—an audacious race of seafarers and temple builders—even though the city existed much before the Pallava dynasty came to be. The earliest known mention of Kanchipuram is by Panini, the Sanskrit grammarian, in about 300 BCE. It has even featured in numerous Tamil epics of the second century CE. Some Ashokan edicts are said to refer to the kingdom of 'Satyaputta' or Satyaputra, besides those of the Chera, Chola and Pandya in the south. One of the several names borne by Kanchi city is 'Satyavaratakshetra' so Satyaputta is understood to mean Kanchipuram.

The old word *kanchi* literally means the gold girdle worn around the waist by women. In the northern texts of the *Bhagavatam*, the city is given the name, Kamakoshnipuri Kanchi.

In this salvation city, the Kamakshi temple is the physical hub. It is also one point of a Shakti energy-triangle encapsulated in the local prayer-phrase 'Kanchi Kamakshi, Madurai Meenakshi, Kashi Vishalakshi'. The *gopuras* or towers of almost all the important temples of the city, standing far and near, reportedly face the shrine of Kamakshi.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> The Kanchi Paramacharya showcased his renowned omniscience when he asked his aide to help out a poor bangle-seller who had not had much luck with selling his wares that day and had decided to take shelter at the entrance of the Kanchi Kamakoti Matham

Three of the 63 Tamil Shaivite saints called Nayanmar—Tirunavukkarasar, Tirugnana-sambandar and Sundarar—have apparently referred to the Kamakottam in their devotional songs. Of them, Sambandar, has even spoken of 'Kanchi Kamakoti' or the locality of the Kamakshi temple.

Besides its glory as a '*mokshapuri*' or salvation city, Kanchipuram is also revered as a *shakti peetham*, since this where the *nabhi* or navel of Sati Devi is believed to have fallen. There is a count of 51 *shakti peethas* across the subcontinent, marking where the dismembered body parts of Sati Devi fell after her corpse was cut down from a grieving Lord Shiva's shoulder by Lord Vishnu.

The northwestern-most *shakti peetham* is at Hinglaj Mata in Balochistan, where Sati's *brahmarandhra* or crown of her head fell, and the easternmost one is her *yoni* at Kamakhya Devi in Guwahati (Kamakhya means Kamakshi). So Kamakshi's temple in Kanchipuram is the southernmost *shakti peetham*. Here, Parasakti, having Saraswathi and Parvathi as her eyes, rules Kanchi as goddess Kamakshi.

The temple sits on an area of about five acres. The *vimanam* of the sanctum is gold-plated. Around the complex, one can see its *sannidhis* and *mandapas*, rich in its architectural splendour.

The outer *prakaram* houses the temple *kulam* (tank), and several *mandapas*. It also offers imposing views of the golden *vimanam*, pierced with four entrances on all four sides.

There is a gold-plated pillar inside the sanctum of the Kamakshi temple with a small hole in it to represent Sati Devi's navel. Childless couples come and touch it reverently to ask for the boon of a child, and Kamakshi's reputation of centuries is that she answers their prayers She blesses those who love her and trust her with well-being, good health and trouble-free lives, Anyone who is heartsore, weary or troubled, can go to her without needing to observe rigorous fasts or perform complicated rituals. As Adi Shankara put it in the third verse of the Bhavani Ashtakam,

Na Jaanami Daanam Na Cha Dhyana-Yogam/Na Jaanami Tantram Na Cha Stotra-Mantram/Na Jaanami Pujaam Na Cha Nyasa-Yogam/Gatis-Tvam Gatis-Tvam Tvam-Ekaa Bhavani

This means, 'Neither am I able to practise great charity, nor am I proficient in meditation, I don't know spells, hymns and prayers, nor do I know the rules of worship nor am I an expert in yoga. You are my sole refuge, Mother Bhavani.' Indeed a comforting, untransactional relationship for devotees.

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MAILBAG

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Waste management

Ref: *Environmental cost of convenience* (Nov 17). While we position ourselves as a global superpower, the ground realities are quite dismal. The manpower, technology, and machinery presently in vogue cannot meet the waste management requirements of the day. There should be a cultural shift in our minds, first to reduce waste, then to recycle wherever possible, and segregate and dispose of waste properly.
Diana Ann Issac, Muvattupuzha

Kitchen trash

Why blame food industries alone for the garbage piling? Plastic covers containing kitchen waste from households are also dumped along roadsides, thereby attracting rodents and stray dogs. Governments should put in place a round-the-clock vigil to bring to book and prosecute the erring citizens.
V K Kumar, Thiruvananthapuram

Partial solution

Our pursuit of convenience is coming at a significant environmental cost. The alarming rate at which we're generating waste demands immediate attention. The consequences are far-reaching, from greenhouse gas emissions to the destruction of natural habitats. While recycling is often seen as the solution, it's only part of the equation.
Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

No threat

Ref: *The Gandhi trinity vs solo Modi* (Nov 17). While it would be too early to predict whether the entry of Priyanka Gandhi into electoral politics would bolster the prospects of the Congress, the Gandhi trinity is no real threat to PM Narendra Modi. The Gandhis might hold the reins of power in the Congress, but Modi wields much more clout in mainstream politics.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Gandhi trio

The author has made it quite obvious that there would be a trio against Modi in parliament, the trinity of Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi. But it must be remembered that Modi is a hard nut to crack.
G Nataraja Perumal, Elathur

Trump's cabinet

With several potential US Cabinet members lacking experience for the positions they are being considered for, the list of probable Cabinet members for Donald Trump appears as perplexing and intimidating as the election of Trump! With sweeping changes on trade tariffs, immigration, and the US's global geopolitical stance, the world is bracing itself for a potentially new era.
Raman R Patil, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
A fake narrative can persist only for a limited period of time. Eventually, the facts will always come out!

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
Congress was in power for 54 years and 7 months after independence. Congress has never created a conflict between caste and religion. Maintained harmony in society.

Binoy Viswam @BinoyViswam1
Moral authority of the ECI is very much under doubt because of their loyalty to BJP. When the PM and HM thundered against minorities ECI was on political meditation with closed eyes.

Manipur will not forget being left in the lurch: Cong

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

AS Manipur is rocked by violence again, Congress president **Mallikarjun Kharge** on Sunday sharpened his attack on the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) for deliberately allowing the state to burn.

In a post on X, Kharge criticised the Prime Minister for not resolving the ongoing unrest, claiming it serves their divisive political agenda. Referring to BJP's political pitch 'Stay united, stay safe,' Kharge wrote, "Under your double-engine governments, neither Manipur is one, nor it is safe."

He further said that since May 2023, the state has battled "unimaginable pain, division, and simmering violence," which destroyed the future of its people. "We are saying it with utmost responsibility. It looks that the BJP deliberately wants Manipur to burn, for it serves its hateful divisive politics," he said.

The Congress chief added that people will never forgive or forget that PM Modi left them to fend for themselves and never set foot in their state to heal their miseries. At least 17 people have lost their lives since November 7, and the violence is spreading to neighbouring states, he pointed out.

Kharge took a jibe at Modi for his international travels amid unrest in Manipur. "Rahul Gandhi went to Manipur and did Bharat Jodo Yatra there...but Prime Minister Modi is travelling around the world. He is not concerned about the nation, he is only concerned about election campaigning and saving his chair. In Maharashtra, Prime Minister Modi abuses the Congress," Kharge said.

Silently, RSS adds weight to BJP's Maha campaign

Volunteers go house-to-house raising awareness on Hindutva

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

SILENTLY, the RSS has lent its full force to buttressing BJP's prospects in poll-bound Maharashtra. The ideological mentor of the party that leads the ruling MahaYuti has strategically supported BJP candidates in vulnerable constituencies, helping consolidate their positions in crucial assembly constituencies.

The behind-the-scenes campaign has added weight to the BJP's communication with voters. The RSS does not engage directly in politics, focusing instead on raising awareness about Hindutva and nationalistic issues through its methods.

The BJP operates with a distinct political strategy. During the Maharashtra assembly elections, both organisations have played their roles effectively, with the Sangh continuing its outreach while the BJP focused on its political campaign.

"The RSS worked silently through house-to-house campaigns as the BJP went aggressively after the Opposition," a senior BJP functionary said.

Speaking to this newspaper, Sangh sources said its swayamsevaks (volunteers) conducted thousands of meetings in the state's interiors. Through door-to-door interactions, they informed voters about Hindutva being allegedly weakened by certain political maneuvers.

"Meetings were held across wards and villages by RSS volunteers, especially in constituencies where the BJP is not strong," said a Sangh source. He predicted that election results would not be as poor as the Opposition under the MVA has projected, calling it a part of their strategy to defeat the Mahayuti.

Sangh on the ground

The BJP's election machinery, in coordination with Mahayuti allies, continued to share strategic inputs with Sangh-functionaries throughout the campaign. "Key constituencies, identified as weak for the BJP and its allies, were shared with the Sangh. In response, thousands of Sangh volunteers launched a mission canvassing the voters, through awareness campaigns, which echoed "danger to Hindutava and Bharat's unity," said a BJP source.

"We urged Hindu voters to rise above caste divisions for Hindutva and Bharat, both of which are targeted by internal and external forces. For this, MahaYuti must be supported," said a senior RSS leader.

While canvassing for the saffron party, the swayamsevaks cited examples of Hindu persecution in Bangladesh and the silence of opposition parties on such incidents.

"This exposes the nefarious agenda against Hindutava and Bharat," he said. The RSS activated its network of volunteers in Maharashtra and Jharkhand five-six months before the polling dates were announced.

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"Key constituencies, identified as weak for the BJP and its allies, were shared with the Sangh. In response, thousands of Sangh volunteers launched a mission canvassing the voters, through awareness campaigns which echoed danger to Hindutava and Bharat's unity," said a BJP source.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

DDCA Elections

BJP ASKS ROHAN, PRAVESH TO KEEP NOISE LOW

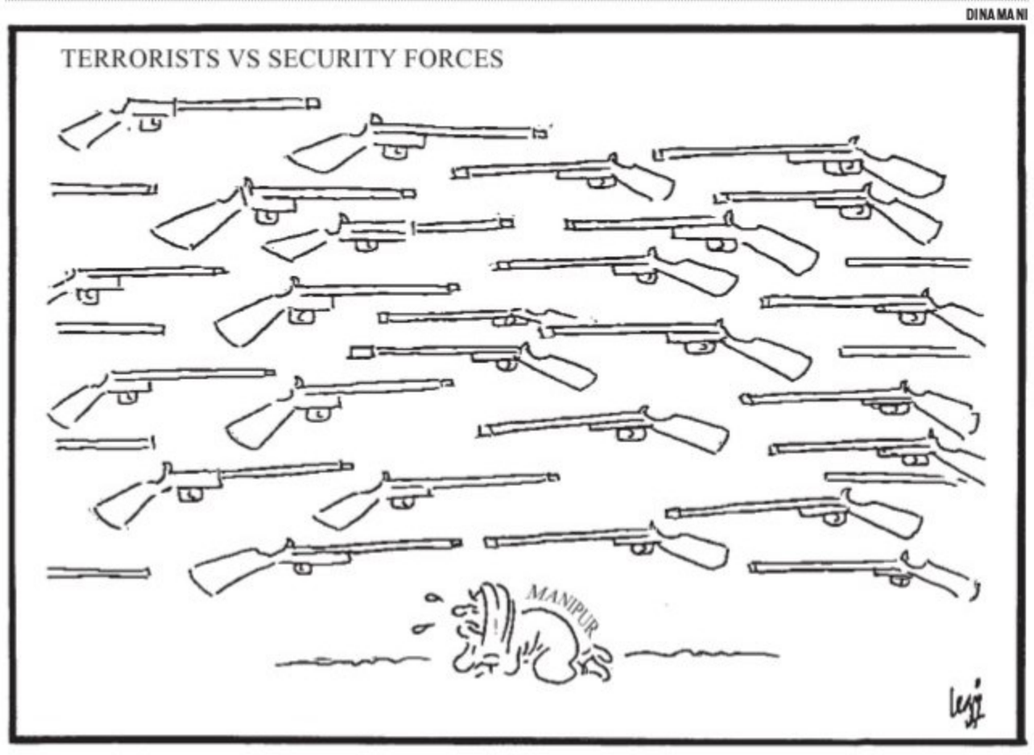
The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) elections are here again, with nominations set to begin on November 18. Rohan Jaitley, who defeated Supreme Court Bar Association president Vikas Singh in the last election for the post of DDCA President, will now face Trinamool Congress MP and former member of India's World Cup-winning cricket team, Kirti Azad. The DDCA elections are among the most bitterly contested in the country, with political lines often blurred as members of the same party turn against each other in this no-holds-barred battle. Jaitley's fiercest opponents within the association are Siddarth Verma, son of former Delhi chief minister Sahib Singh Verma, who won the DDCA secretaryship in the last election, and Pravesh Verma, the former West Delhi BJP MP. According to grapevine, the bitter feud between Pravesh and Rohan is believed to have contributed to their failure to secure Lok Sabha nominations earlier this year. The party denied a ticket to Pravesh, despite his being a second-term MP who had won his seat by a large margin. Rohan was reportedly the frontrunner for the New Delhi seat, which eventually went to Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of the late Sushma Swaraj. Sources say the BJP leadership has asked the two warring leaders to tone down their rivalry during the ongoing DDCA elections, which begin tomorrow, as the party does not want the internal conflict to harm its chances in the upcoming Delhi assembly elections. Rohan is also seen as a leading contender to replace BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who is scheduled to take over as ICC president on December 1.

Haryana Loss

TWO COMMITTEES, NO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONG

The Congress party's stunning defeat in Haryana has cast its shadow on Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections. The unexpected victory has filled the BJP with new energy and confidence in its battle for the two crucial states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Haryana has brought the air of invincibility back to the BJP after the Lok Sabha election setback where the party failed to secure a majority on its own. For the Congress, on the other hand, nothing seems to have changed. The party set up a committee at the central level to probe the reasons behind its defeat. The committee submitted its report two weeks ago, but the party has yet to act on it. Fearing criticism and punitive action, the Haryana unit of Congress established a state-level committee which blamed EVM tampering for the loss. The state committee was headed by Karan Dalal, a relative of Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Dalal lost his seat by over 33,000 votes. He was appointed as the head of the panel by state unit president Udai Bhan, who was himself defeated in the recent election. The two leaders have become the subject of Haryanavi jokes, with people suggesting that they should first address the reasons for their own losses before attempting to explain why others lost. Sources in the party indicated that the leadership may discuss the central committee report after the Maharashtra elections. Incidentally, the central committee was headed by party treasure Ajay Maken, who had lost the Rajya Sabha election from Haryana not too long ago.

DINAMANI



Modi receives Nigeria's second highest national award, vows to boost ties

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred the award by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in Abuja on Sunday | PTI

NIGERIA on Sunday conferred its second-highest national award — the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger — on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, making him the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction. Queen Elizabeth was honoured with the award in 1969.

"I am honoured to be conferred with the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger Award. I accept it with great humility and dedicate it to the people of India and also India-Nigeria friendship. We have strategic partnership with Nigeria, which will get bolstered," Modi said in Abuja.

Modi said the relations between India and Nigeria are based on mutual cooperation, goodwill and respect. "As two vibrant democracies with dynamic economies, we have been working together for the well-being of the people of both countries," he said.

"Last year President of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu came to India for G20 Summit. Today we have discussed bilateral issues which include security, agriculture, energy, culture. Nigeria is a close and trusted partner of India. Around 60,000 people of Indian origin live in Nigeria and are a binding factor between our two nations," the PM said.

In their talks, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to jointly fight terrorism, piracy and radicalisation and work towards meeting the aspirations of the Global South. "We give high priority to our strategic partnership with Nigeria...I am confident that a new chapter in our ties will begin following our talks," the PM said.

Tinubu thanked Modi for sending medicines and relief aid during the recent floods.

Following the talks, three MoUs on cultural exchange, cooperation in customs and survey cooperation were signed.

Indians stuck in Myanmar call centre

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

IT has been eight months since 22-year-old Ajay left his house in Lucknow after being offered a job at a fraud call center in Malaysia. Instead, he ended up in a cyber fraud centre in Myanmar. Ajay was accompanied by two other friends, Sagar and Rahul, who have since returned to India, while Ajay continues to endure torture at a facility known as JPark in Megalahpo, Myanmar.

This place is reportedly very close to the Thailand border, just about 2 kms away.

"There are six Indian boys held up in that centre. While 72 of us, who were shifted to another centre called Dongmae, managed to return, I have heard that Ajay is being kept in a dark room without food for days on end, and given electric shocks," said Rahul(25), who returned in September.

It may be recalled that this newspaper had written about these three boys on July 14. Unfortunately Ajay's family cannot afford the money for his release.

EXPRESS READ

Cong moves EC over BJP campaign in J'khand

The Congress on Sunday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking stern action against the BJP for allegedly continuing its "communal and divisive" campaign in Jharkhand, days before the second and final phase of Assembly elections scheduled in the state on November 20. In the complaint registered with the poll panel, the second in a week, Congress General Secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh accused Jharkhand BJP of spreading "false and misleading" information on social media.

Restoration of Indian classic films halfway through

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

COST OF PRESERVATION

₹74 CR budget, the restoration and digitisation project under NFHM is one of the most ambitious efforts in film preservation

NFHM accepts contribution, donation and sponsorship from corporates, philanthropists, private institutions and state governments

Contributors and sponsors may select available film reels-celluloid preserved at NFDC-NFAI; feature films, shorts, and documentaries

THEY MAY ALTERNATIVELY BRING THEIR OWN COLLECTED FILM REELS-CELLULOID MATERIAL, NFDC-NFAI STORES THOSE RESTORED WITHOUT ANY CHARGES

THE ambitious project of restoration of rare Indian classic and historic films initiated by National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is halfway through.

At present, preservation of about 65,000 film reels is underway while more than 64,000 reels have already undergone conservation. The deadline to complete the project is February. The project that began in 2022 has helped in the revival of masterpieces including about a century old iconic movies including the silent era production *Kaliya Mardan* (1919) directed by Dadasaheb Phalke.

The other notable productions are a biopic in Bengali *Vidyapati* (1937) directed by Debaki Bose, V Shantaram's *Agnikankankan* (Marathi/ 1932), *Mukti* (Hindi/1937) directed by BC Barua and Sushil Majumdar's *Rikta* (Bengali/ 1939).

"Films from different regions of India have been selected, ensuring a diverse representation of India's cinematic heritage. So far, more than 500 feature films, shorts, and documentaries are undergoing digital restoration. More than 1,500 titles are in the pipeline for restoration," said officials associated with the recovery process of cinematic treasure.

The mission has already digitised more than 5,600 films including over 2,000 feature films. The process ensures that the films are preserved in high-definition formats with the addition of subtitles, the creation of Digital Cinema Packages and other deliverables formats.

After restoration the National Film Development Corporation of India-National Film Archive of India (NFDC-NFAI), an arm of the ministry executing the project, organises their screening. Besides events in the country, the restored films are shown in prestigious films festivals abroad such as Cannes, Venice, Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Shanghai Film Festival and cultural Institutions such as the British Film Institute (BFI), German Film Museum, Swedish Film Institute, and Filmpodium Zurich.

This year, seven films including Kaliya Mardan of legendary filmmakers and artists have been selected to exhibit at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) starting November 20 in Goa. The list includes Raj Kapoor's *Awara* (1951), Telugu romantic drama *Devadasu* (1953), Dev Anand-Nanda-Sadhana starrer *Hum Dono* (1961), *Harmonium* (1975) directed by Tapan Sinha, Superstar Amitabh Bachchan's debut film *Saat Hindustani* (1969) directed by Khwaja Ahmad Abbas and Satyajit Ray's Bengali social drama *Seemabaddha* (1971).

"The films are undergoing an intricate digital restoration process to remove time induced defects such as but not limited to scratches, color fading, dirt, dust, noise clicks and pops without altering the original vision of the filmmakers... These meticulous processes incorporate International archival ethics thus ensuring that modern audiences can experience these iconic films as close as possible to their original form," said officials.

Creating a record: Over 65 lakh digital life certificates issued for pensioners

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

IN a move to promote digital empowerment among pensioners, a record number of more than 65 lakh digital life certificates (DLC) have been issued so far, including 31.5 lakh generated by Central government employees, between November 1 and 15 during the ongoing DLC 3.0 campaign, officials said.

DLC is a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners. Pensioners of Central or state government, EPFO or any other government organisation whose pension disbursing agency is live for DLC can take benefit of this facility.

Launched on November 1 across 800 cities, the DLC 3.0 campaign aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowering pensioners and elderly citizens through digital initiatives. By the end of the campaign on November 30, over 100 lakh DLCs are expected to be issued, officials said.

V Srinivas, secretary, Central department of pensions and pensioners welfare, said, "65,30,787 DLCs have so far been generated, which include 31,63,331 out of 63,69,000 central government employees, from November 1 to 15."

Official figures reveal that 16.95 lakh DLCs out of the total generated so far were issued using face authentication technology.

Srinivas said that the campaign is being conducted in 800 cities enabling pensioners from Central and state governments as well as other organisations to submit their DLCs through pension disbursing banks, such as the SBI.

"Following the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials of the department of pension and pensioners' welfare are working for the digital empowerment of pensioners by adopting the 'Nation First, Citizen First' approach," Srinivas said.

The first DLC campaign, conceptualised in 2022, spanned 37 cities, followed by the second in 2023, which covered 100 cities. "During those first and second DLC campaigns, a record number of 2.88 crore DLCs were generated, including more than 54 lakh for Central government pensioners," said Srinivas.

What is DLC?

DLC is a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners. Pensioners of Central or state governments, EPFO or any other government organisation whose pension disbursing agency is live for DLC can take benefit of this. Launched on November 1 across 800 cities, the DLC 3.0 campaign aims to empower pensioners and elderly citizens via digital initiatives.

LAUGHTER NO THERAPY

A govt official received show cause notice for allegedly laughing during a public hearing in MP's Chhatarpur district. The notice accused that the behaviour of KK Tiwari, an assistant manager of e-governance at district collector's office, amounted to indiscipline and carelessness.

20 PERSONS HURT IN LPG CYLINDER BLAST IN MP'S CHHATARPUR DISTRICT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	18	Mumbai	37	23
Bhopal	30	14	Panaji	33	24
Jaipur	29	13	Patna	30	15
Amritsar	23	11	Lucknow	29	14
Chennai	30	25	Port Blair	32	27
Kolkata	29	17	Imphal	27	11
Srinagar	16	-2	Chandigarh	26	10

● In Marathwada's 100 seats, going gets tough for key adversaries ● JMM counters infiltration plank with Maiyan Samman Yojana

MahaYuti's Maha concern: Soyabean & cotton farmers

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA'S Marathwada region is known for its rich cotton and soyabean yield. This year, things are different. Excess rain led to a drastic fall in the output and the prices.

"This season I expected around 10 quintal of the crop in my five-acre land, which could have fetched me a price of at least ₹6,000 per quintal," says Ramesh Shinde, a farmer in Beed, known for its tranquil rivers and lush landscapes.

The soya yield went down from 8 quintal per acre last year to 4 quintal per acre this year. The market price crashed from ₹6,000 per quintal to ₹3,500 — below the government support price of ₹4,800 per quintal. "The government should tell me how to live with this income," said Shinde.

Meet Dhiraj Patil, a cotton farmer from Pachora. He harvested cotton on his 10-acre irrigated land. He sold 50 quintals of cotton at ₹6,500 per quintal against the MSP of ₹7,200 per quintal. "I have told my kids to study hard and not engage in agriculture anymore," Patil said.

He said initially the BT cotton output was very high, around 10-15 quintal. The production has been down to 4-6 quintals. On the other hand, input costs have gone up many folds. "The fall in cotton prices is like rubbing salt over our wounds. Three years ago, we sold cotton at ₹10,000 per quintal and now, it is only ₹6,000. Political parties offer tall promises, but no one fulfills the demands," says Patil.

Representative Image

Shinde and Patil are among thousands of farmers in over 100 assembly constituencies in Maharashtra, where the total land under soyabean is 50.85 lakh hectares, the highest among all crops, followed by 40.77 lakh per hectare of cotton. The total production of soyabean is 66.7 lakh metric tonne this year. The state government on the instruction of the Centre started the government soyabean procurement centres. So far, they have bought only 13% of the total production. Many other farmers were forced to sell their produce at a rate lower than the MSP in private markets.

Vijay Jawandia, a farmer leader, blames government policies for the fall in soyabean and cotton prices. He says in India, there is no GM soyabean, so production is not high as compared to other countries. Therefore, it is a double whammy for farmers.

The falling soya and cotton prices have hit the ruling MahaYuti government. Many of its leaders were forced to cancel their campaign rallies where farmers asked them difficult questions.

PM Narendra Modi tried to pacify the anger of the soyabean farmers and announced ₹6,000 per quintal for the crop. There is no mechanism to buy the crop at this rate. Most farmers have already sold their yield at low rate due to poverty and rising debts.

Farmers' ire: Leaders forced to cancel rallies

The falling soya and cotton prices have hit the ruling MahaYuti government. Many of its leaders were forced to cancel their campaign rallies where farmers asked them difficult questions. "There are a total of 100 constituencies out of the total 288 that are going to be impacted due price crash," said a political observer.

With 18 seats, BJP bets big on Santhal Pargana

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE BJP is making all-out efforts to make a dent in the Santhal Pargana region, a stronghold of CM Hemant Soren-led JMM, especially on the Bangladeshi infiltration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have spelled out areas where the alleged infiltration has taken place over the years. These are Pakur, Rajmahal, Barhait and Dumka. But JMM has called it a poll plank.

All BJP leaders — Jharkhand election in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam Chief Minister and co-election in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma — have promised to bring a law to check infiltration.

Former CM Chamapi Soren, who joined the BJP recently, has attacked the JMM over the changing demography of Santhal Pargana. JMM patriarch Shibu Soren's daughter-in-law Sita Soren and former JMM MLA Lobin Hembram, who recently joined BJP, also took the campaign forward.

The BJP maintains it is the tribals who are suffering due to infiltration; their identity is in danger due to 'love and land jihad.'

"Infiltrators are grabbing tribals' land by marrying their daughters and snatching their political right by fielding their 'tribal' wives on the seats reserved for tribals. They interfere in the village administration after making their wives win in panchayat polls," says state BJP spokesperson Pradeep Sinha.

"The locals are now becoming increasingly aware about their roti-mati-beti (bread, land, daugthers) being in danger due to the influx of Bangladeshi people," he added.

The JMM, on the other hand, believes that the people of Jharkhand have defied the issue being raised by the BJP and the Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojana will prove to be a masterstroke and pave the way for the formation of JMM-led INDIA alliance in the state yet again.

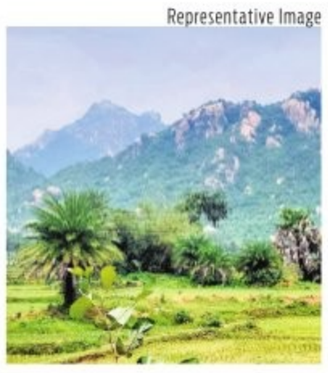
Santhal Pargana is considered the focal point of Jharkhand politics and has given three CMs to the state. Besides that, more than a dozen MLAs of this region have become ministers.

Out of the total 18 seats in Santhal Pargana, seven are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and one seat for SC, while 10 seats are general seats.

In the 2019 assembly elections, the JMM won 9 seats including Barhet, Borio, Littipara, Maheshpur, Shikaripara, Dumka, Jama, Madhupur and Nala in Santhal Pargana, while Congress won four seats — Pakur, Mahagama, Jamtara and Jarmundi. The BJP managed to get only four seats — Rajmahal, Godda, Deoghar and Sarath.

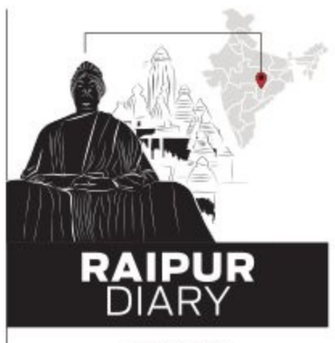
CM Hemant Soren is again in the election fray from the Barhait seat. His brother Basant Soren is contesting from Dumka on a JMM ticket.

Representative Image



Hemant Soren in poll fray from Barhait

CM Hemant Soren is again in the election fray from the Barhait seat. His brother Basant Soren is contesting from Dumka on a JMM ticket. Barhait is considered a safe seat for JMM as it has succeeded in retaining the seat since 1990. Meanwhile, for the first time, Shibu Soren is away from the election campaign due to poor health.



RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

New state industrial policy launched

Chhattisgarh has introduced a new Industrial Development Policy 2024-30, featuring many firsts and innovative-driven proposals aimed at driving economic growth, generating employment and fostering sustainable industrial development. There are specific exemptions earmarked for women entrepreneurs, surrendered Maoists, members of the third gender, Agniveer soldiers and entrepreneurs from SC/ST, offering them pathways to public and private sector employment. The thrust sectors have been divided into incentivise high growth sectors, service sectors, general sectors and core sectors.

Representative Image

PHDCCI gets new chairman in the state

The PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industries (PHDCCI), which has been working as a catalyst for promotion of Indian industry, trade and entrepreneurship for past 119 years, has appointed corporate leader Pradeep Tandon as the Chairman of its Chhattisgarh State Council. His role will focus on fostering progress, harmony, and integrated development within the region. The industry chamber works at the grassroots level with strong national and international linkages reaching out to over 1.5 lakh large, medium and small industries across multiple sectors to take the Indian economy to the next level.

Who will be the next Chief Secretary?

There is an increasing speculation that state BJP may follow the trend established by its recent governments in states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, where the chief secretary (CS) were appointed from the IAS officers posted with the Centres. In Chhattisgarh, rumours circulating in the power corridors suggest that the next CS might be a senior IAS officer who is on deputation in Delhi. Tenure of the present CS Amitabh Jain of 1989-batch ends on June 2025. It remains to be seen if Amit Agrawal (1993-batch) from Delhi will replace Jain or the two other senior most bureaucrats Renu Pillai (1991-batch) or Subrat Sahu (1992-batch), both posted in the state.

Omar in talks with Centre over status

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AS the Congress is facing BJP fire on Article 370 during the poll campaign in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is engaging with the Centre after the J&K Assembly passed a resolution on restoration of J&K's special status and constitutional guarantees.

Abdullah, who heads the National Conference-led government in Jammu and Kashmir, camped in New Delhi last week for key meetings. During his stay, Omar met President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Finance Minister Niramala Sitharaman, and Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

His visit to New Delhi and his key meetings took place immediately after the Assembly passed resolution on restoration of J&K's special status and constitutional guarantees. The resolution was passed in J&K Assembly by voice vote amid protest by BJP members.

The resolution, which calls upon the Centre to initiate dialogue with elected representatives of people of J&K for restoration of special status, constitutional guarantee and to work out constitutional mechanisms for restoring these provisions, was backed by NC, six independents, Congress, PDP and Valley-based independent legislators. Only BJP opposed the resolution and protested against it in the House.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah meets PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi in October | FILE PHOTO

Congress kept silent on Article 370 but backed NC, which pledged for restoration of Article 370 in its manifesto. Congress also supported the NC-backed resolution on restoration of J&K's special status

Altaf Thakur, BJP spokesperson

Earlier, after the J&K Cabinet passed resolution on restoration of statehood in its first meeting, Omar had travelled to New Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister of Roads, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and other Union ministers. Omar had handed over copies of the cabinet resolution calling for restoration of statehood to the PM and other Union ministers.

A political observer said the BJP is hitting out at the Congress as the two parties are rivals while Omar Abdullah and NC are playing their cards well. "The NC has passed resolutions on statehood and special status by avoiding reference to Article 370. It is also keeping New Delhi in loop. Abdullahs know where is the limit, and they will never cross that limit," the observer said.

BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said the Congress is playing the dual game. "The Congress kept silent on Article 370 but backed NC, which in its poll manifesto pledged for restoration of Article 370. The Congress also supported the NC-backed resolution on restoration of J&K's special status," he said.

"The BJP is exposing the Congress's deceit politics as the grand old party fully knows that Article 370 can never be brought back," Thakur said.

On Omar engaging New Delhi, Thakur said for governance issue he is meeting central leaders. "It is not for politics. Both NC and Congress fully know that even if J&K Assembly passes 100 resolutions, Article 370 cannot be brought back," he added.

J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra had earlier said the demand for restoring Article 370 was neither raised in the resolution passed by the Assembly nor mentioned elsewhere. "We have already said the only thing left to demand after the Supreme Court verdict on Article 370 is statehood," Karra said, adding that the BJP is misrepresenting the facts for political gains.

Delhi cabinet minister Kailash Gahlot quits AAP

ANUP VERMA @ New Delhi

IN a major setback for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, its senior leader and minister Kailash Gahlot left the party on Sunday. Sources said his resignation was accepted by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi.

Gahlot, in his resignation letter, said "political ambitions have overtaken our commitment towards people, leaving many promises unfulfilled". He cited the case of Yamuna River, which the party had promised to clean up. "Now the Yamuna is perhaps even more polluted than before," he said. He also made a mention of the 'Sheeshmahal' row over ₹45 crore renovation of the Chief Minister's residence, saying such controversies are making the public doubt whether the AAP is still the common man's party.

He alleged that instead of fighting for the rights of the people, the party was busy fighting for its own agenda which has crippled delivery of basic services in Delhi.

Meanwhile, AAP sources said Gahlot left the party as a result of multiple investigations launched against him by various Central agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Multiple raids have been conducted on his properties in recent months.

"Pressure was created on Gahlot by conducting ED-CBI raids, and now he is speaking as per the script given by the BJP," AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said. "The Modi washing machine has become active before the Delhi elections. Now many leaders will be inducted into the BJP through this machine," Singh said.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva welcomed Gahlot's resignation. "Gahlot stepped down raising the same issues for which the BJP was protesting and fighting against Kejriwal and AAP. His resignation proves that even AAP leaders do not consider Kejriwal an honest politician," Sachdeva said.

C'garh to paint horns of stray cattle to minimise road accidents at night

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THERE is no apparent respite from road accidents and consequent fatalities caused by stray cattle wandering onto traffic routes, main roads and state highways in Chhattisgarh.

Over the past two-year-and-a-halfs, there have been 308 accidents, 231 casualties and 64 injuries across the state. The number of deaths (231) remains far higher than the casualties of civilians at 115 owing to Maoists' violence in the conflict-ridden region of Bastar since January 2022.

State authorities have been told to paint the cattle horns to prevent road accidents on the main routes of the capital. The move is expected to be a valuable step in alerting drivers on the roads. Stray cattle have become a recurrent cause of road accidents, particularly during the night when spotting them becomes difficult at times.

Panchayat and Rural Development Department Secretary Niharika Barik has asked the departments concerned and officials to take effective steps to prevent road accidents on main roads and state highways.

The animal husbandry department has been instructed to colour the horns of cattle lying on the roads. The paint should be of good quality so as to alert the driver of vehicles to spot the cattle on the route during the night hours from a distance. She also directed to get collar belts tied to the stray cattle besides creating awareness in the outskirts and villages to remove cattle from the roads.

Some of the other measures to be undertaken included organising chaupals in villages for disseminating information and creating platforms for the cattle to rest.

Officials in the traffic department said that people die when they try to save cattle on the road and the animals abruptly emerging or roaming around poses greater risks. The cattle at times crowd the main roads.

Road accident deaths as a whole have gone up in Chhattisgarh. The road accidents in the state have risen by 7.36 percent and casualties by 8.62 percent in 2022 compared to 2021.

"To prevent mishaps, the best tools are the road safety rules and its awareness," said Sanjay Sharma, AIG (Traffic).

U'khand has 729 bird species across 13 districts

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

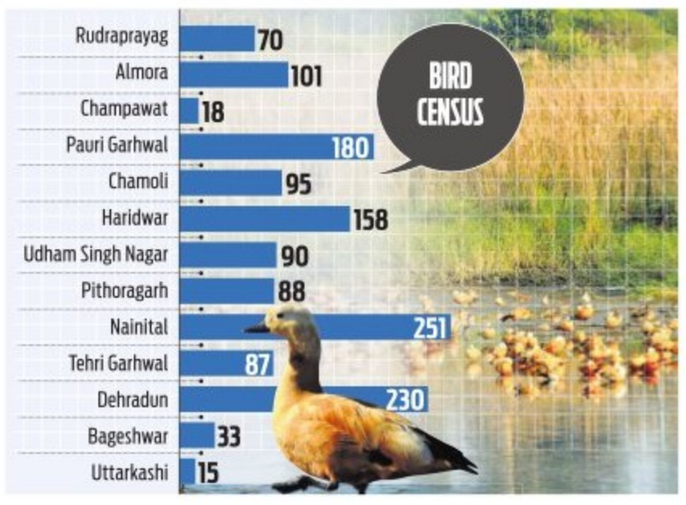
IN a landmark event for the state, the two-day Uttarakhand Bird Census 2024 has successfully concluded, with bird watchers and nature enthusiasts reporting a total of 729 bird species across 13 districts.

According to an official of the state forest department, the impressive tally of 729 includes several rare and endangered species, showcasing the rich avian diversity of the state.

The two-day bird census, organised by the e-Bird organization in collaboration with the forest department and various other groups in Uttarakhand, concluded on Sunday.

According to official sources from the forest department, Nainital has been identified as the leading district for bird diversity in the state, boasting an impressive count of 251 species. Dehradun follows closely behind with 230 species, while Pauri Garhwal ranks third with 180 species.

Bird expert and forester Pradeep Saxena told this newspaper, "While the first-ever bird count in Uttarakhand may not provide an exact number of the various bird species in the state, a total of 2,504 birds from 77 species were counted at the Asan Barrage. Among these, the highest counts included 625 Ruddy Shelducks, 238 Indian Spot-billed Ducks, and 324 Eurasian Coots."



"The endangered Wire-tailed Swallow, Plain Prinia, Grey Wagtail, and Booted Eagle were also observed, each in solitary numbers," said the forester.

Saxena informed this newspaper that among the 17 bird species classified as endangered, several notable examples include the Pied Avocet, Red-wattled Lapwing, Spotted Dove, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Greater Coucal, and White-throated Kingfisher. These species are facing increasing threats to their populations, highlighting the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect their habitats and ensure their survival in the wild.

In a significant development during the Global Bird Count, the first-ever bird count in Uttarakhand, bird watcher Nitin Kumar Raghav shared his insights with this newspaper. "The programme primarily focused on identifying which species are located where," he stated. "Understanding which bird species are declining in the hills, plains, or wetlands is crucial for bird conservation. This knowledge will enable us to undertake urgent conservation efforts in the future."

Ankita Bhatt, a bird watcher, said, "During this count, we have gathered data on how many species of birds are present in the state, the locations where they were found, and their population sizes. This information will help us gain a better understanding of the diversity of birds in the region."

First
US president to set foot in the Amazon forest is Joe Biden

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	7	0	SNY	Los Angeles	19	7	SNY
Colombo	32	24	LR	Melbourne	18	11	SNY
Dhaka	30	19	SNY	Moscow	5	3	LC
Dubai	32	22	SNY	New York	18	7	SNY
Houston	28	15	LR	Singapore	30	25	LR
Istanbul	14	7	SNY	Toronto	13	4	SNY
London	8	6	LC	Washington	8	4	LR

Russia launches fiercest attack on Ukraine

Kyiv blames latest offensive on German Chancellor, who called Putin two days ago to end Moscow's offensive

Biden allows Ukraine to use US missiles inside Russia

President Joe Biden for the first time authorised the use of US-supplied long-range missiles by Ukraine to strike inside Russia, according to people familiar with the matter. The decision is a major US policy shift. President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to limit American support for Ukraine and end the war as soon as possible. The weapons are likely to be used in response to North Korea's decision to send troops to Russia in support of invasion of Ukraine.

KYIV

RUSSIA on Sunday pummelled Ukraine with a "massive" aerial barrage of missiles and drones, killing at least nine people across the country in the largest attack in months that Kyiv branded "hellish".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Moscow launched 120 missiles and almost 100 drones, targeting the capital as well as southern, central and far-western corners of the country.

Civilians were killed in the Mykolaiv, Lviv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk and Odesa regions in what officials in Kyiv called it one of the biggest barrages of the almost three-year long Russian invasion.

Emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire following a Russian rocket attack in Ukraine on Sunday | AP

The devastation comes at a time when Moscow has been steadily advancing in Ukraine's east and with the imminent return of Donald Trump to the White House raising fears over the future of US support for Kyiv. "A hellish night," the spokesman for Ukraine's air-force Yuriy Ignat said on social media, adding that Kyiv downed "144 targets".

The giant attack followed two days after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called Russian leader Vladimir Putin for the first time in almost two years, calling on the Kremlin chief to end Moscow's offensive.

Kyiv had slammed Scholz for reaching out to Putin and Sunday said the attack was the Kremlin's real answer.

"This is war criminal Putin's true response to all those who called and visited him recently," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said after the attack. "We need peace through strength, not appeasement."

Scholz on Sunday defended the call and insisted that Berlin's backing for Kyiv was unwavering.

"Ukraine can count on us," the German leader said ahead of flying to a G20 meeting in Brazil, promising that "no decision will be taken behind Ukraine's back" on ending the conflict.

But Poland's prime minister joined the backlash on Sunday.

"No-one will stop Putin with phone calls. The attack last night, one of the biggest in this war, has proved that telephone diplomacy cannot replace real support from the whole West for Ukraine," Donald Tusk wrote on X. *AFP*

'G20 must overcome forex barrier to achieve climate finance goals'

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA
EXPRESS IN BAKU

TO move away from fossil fuels, the G20 countries must push for new taxes from carbon emitters and overcome the foreign exchange (FX) barrier to achieve the ambitious climate finance goals. This was suggested by Avinash Persaud, special advisor on climate change to the president of the Inter-American Development Bank and a key figure in the Loss and Damage Fund negotiations. Persaud is also one of world's prominent economists and the architect of FX Liquidity Facility, a first-of-its-kind initiative mooted in Brazil earlier this year.

In an interview with this newspaper in Baku ahead of the Rio G20 summit, which kicks off from Monday, Persaud said it's high time for the G20 to unlock foreign investments in renewable energy projects in countries like India.

"While local financing has played a substantial role—96% of India's renewable energy initiatives are funded domestically—this is insufficient for the massive scale of investment required. We need foreign money, but the primary barrier is foreign exchange risk," he said.

Foreign investors face significant challenges due to the cost of hedging foreign exchange risks, particularly the rupee's fluctuations. Hedging costs can exceed 7-8 percentage points annually, significantly diminishing investment returns.

"An investment promising a 10% return effectively yields only 3% after accounting for foreign exchange costs, making it unattractive for investors," Persaud explained.

To address this, the IDB has introduced an FX Liquidity Facility, piloted in Brazil and endorsed by the G20. The facility aims to mitigate foreign exchange risks by enabling projects to adjust their prices with local inflation over time.

"Exchange rate risk is essentially inflation risk in the long term. By aligning project revenues with inflation and providing US dollars when local currencies fall, we eliminate a substantial part of the risk," he said.

COP29

Launched in March with $5 billion in support from the IDB, the Brazilian pilot has attracted significant interest from local and foreign investors.

The G20 is encouraging other nations, including India, to adopt similar models to attract foreign investments into renewable energy.

"India's local investors are already active, but it's not enough. The answer is to bring in cheaper capital from places where is capital is abundant, which will also bring down the cost of capital," said Persaud.

He suggested replicating the Brazilian model in India to address this issue.

Hezbollah spokesman Afif killed in Israeli strike

BEIRUT

A Lebanese security source said Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif was killed in an Israeli strike Sunday in central Beirut that hit the Lebanese branch of the Syrian Baath party. "The strike on Ras al-Nabaa killed Hezbollah media relations official Mohammed Afif," the security source said, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to brief the media.

Ali Hijazi, secretary-general of the Lebanese branch of the Baath party, "confirmed the death of Hezbollah media official" Afif, the official *National News Agency* reported.

The Israeli army declined to comment, but Afif is the latest in a long line of Hezbollah officials killed since Israel on September 23 began heavily bombarding Hezbollah strongholds after almost a year of cross-border exchanges with the Iran-backed group over the Gaza war. Lebanon's health ministry said the strike killed one person and wounded three others, adding that the toll was provisional and that work was ongoing to remove rubble from the site of the strike.

Mohammed Afif

Afif was part of the inner circle of longtime Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli strike in September.

For years, Afif had been responsible for Hezbollah's media relations, providing information to local and foreign journalists, often under the cover of anonymity.

The *NNA* said the strike by "enemy aircraft" caused "great destruction", reporting an unspecified number of people "trapped under the rubble" in Ras al-Nabaa. *AFP*

Police arrest three after flares land in PM's home

Israeli police said on Sunday three suspects were arrested after two flares landed near Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence in the central town of Caesarea. Police added the suspects would be interrogated jointly with the Shin Bet internal security agency.

Fossil fuel exec to be US energy secy

PALM BEACH

PRESIDENT-elect Donald Trump has selected Chris Wright, a campaign donor and fossil fuel executive, to serve as energy secretary in his upcoming, second administration.

CEO of Denver-based Liberty Energy, Wright is a vocal advocate of oil and gas development, including fracking, a key pillar of Trump's quest to achieve U.S. "energy dominance" in the global market.

Chris Wright

Wright has been one of the industry's loudest voices against efforts to fight climate change, and could give fossil fuels a boost, including quick action to end a year-long pause on natural gas export approvals by the Biden administration.

Frequently criticising what he calls a "top-down" approach to climate by liberal and left-wing groups, Wright has argued that the climate movement around the world is "collapsing under its own weight." He has never served in government, but has written that more fossil fuel production is needed around the globe to lift people out of poverty.

Consideration of Wright to head the administration's energy department won support from influential conservatives.

Mike Sommers, president of the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry's top lobbying group, said Wright's experience in the energy sector "gives him an important perspective that will inform his leadership" of the Energy Department.

The Energy Department is responsible for advancing energy, environmental and nuclear security of the United States. The agency is in charge of maintaining the country's nuclear weapons, oversees 17 national research laboratories and approves natural gas exports, as well as ensuring environmental cleanup of the nation's nuclear weapons complex.

President-elect Donald Trump greets Jon Jones after he defeated Stipe Miocic at UFC MSG, early on Sunday in New York, as Elon Musk, Kid Rock watch | AP

If confirmed, Wright will join North Dakota Gov Doug Burgum, Trump's choice to be interior secretary, as a key player on energy policy in a second Trump term. *AP*

Damaged houses caused by typhoon in northeastern Philippines on Sunday | AP

6th major storm in a month lashes north Philippines, forcing people to flee homes

MANILA

A powerful typhoon wrecked houses, caused towering tidal surges and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to emergency shelters as it cut across the northern Philippines on Sunday in the sixth major storm to hit the country in less than a month.

Typhoon Man-yi slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes on Saturday night with sustained winds of up to 195 kms per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph.

The country's weather agency warned of a 'potentially catastrophic and life-threatening situation' in provinces along its path. There were no immediate reports of casualties from the typhoon, which was forecast to blow northwestward on Sunday across northern Luzon, the archipelago's most populous region. The capital region of metropolitan Manila would likely be spared from a direct hit but was placed, along with outlying regions, under storm alerts and warned of dangerous coastal storm surges.

"The rain was minimal, but the wind was very strong and had this eerie howling sound," Roberto Monterola, a disaster-mitigation officer in Catanduanes, said by telephone. "Along a main boulevard here, the tidal surges went up to more than 23 feet near the seaside houses. It looked really scary."

The entire province of Catanduanes had no power after the typhoon knocked down trees and electricity posts, and disaster-response teams were checking how many more houses were damaged in addition to those impacted by previous storms, he said. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client **Smt.Vijayalakshmi** is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Property.

The **(1) Original Partition deed** dated 22.05.2001 registered as doc. no.1699/2001-02 Book-I Volume No.4297 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk **(2) Original Sale deed** dated 18.11.2010 registered as doc. no.VRT-1-05166-2010-11 and Stored in CD No.VRTD86 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Varthur, Bengaluru AND **(3) Original Sale deed** registered on dated 17.09.2014 registered as doc. no.MDP-1-03126-2014-15 and Stored in CD No.MDPD149 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Mahadevapura for the property bearing Graaamataana Site No.18 & 19/1, Old Katha No.43, Assessment Register No.43, New BBMP Katha No.56/43/18,19/1, is misplaced/ lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 30.07.2024 vide Acknowledgement of Police Complaint vide Lost Report Nos.1169125/2024, 1169139/2024 and 1169028/2024.

Any Person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 7 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at him/her own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Graaamataana Site No.18 & 19/1, Old Katha No.43, Assessment Register No.43, New BBMP Katha No.56/43/18,19/1, Situated at Junnasandra Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.Ft. and bounded on:

East by : Property belongs to Smt. Madduramma
West by : Property belongs to Sri. Annayappa
North by : Property belongs to Smt. Kempamma
South by : Road.

Aswath B, Advocate
#36 (317/C), 9th A Main, 40th Cross, 5th Block, Jayanagara Bangalore -560041
Contact No : 9901944099
E-mail: aswath.bb@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Mr.Rajashekar N.S S/o Sakanna, Aged about 59 years residing at No.54, Nagasandra Doddaballapura-561203. My client is the absolute owner of the property bearing Sy.No.260/1 measuring 2 acres 23 guntas Situated at Aralumallige Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and bounded on:

East by : Rajakaluve, West by : Gollahalli Road, North by : Properties of Chikkapillanna Narayanappa, South by : Property of Jadikere Kempanna.

My Client had lost the Original GPA dated 14.09.2004 executed by B.V. Shanthamma in favour of Mr. Rajashekar N.S during the transit while visiting the Bank loan purpose. Inspite of several efforts the Original Notarized GPA has not found and he lodged the police compiaint through Online dated 16.11.2024 Vide No. 1338101/2024.

Any Person/Firm/Institution/Company having any claim or right in respect of the said property by way of sale agreement, Mortgage, lease, lien, gift possession, or any kind of encumbrance whomsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to under signed within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share of Claim, if any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our clients. And if anyone found the same kindly contact the below address.

PREMA B DUBALE
RBK legal I Advocate & Solicitors
Sampoorna Chambers, 4th Floor, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXVIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-39)
O.S. No. 2550/2024

BETWEEN: Smt. B.P. Uma, W/o Late B.T. Kumar, age about 74 years, No. 349, 41st Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-70.... **PLAINTIFF**
AND: Kum.Hitha Harish ... DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT U/O V RULE 20 R/W SECTION 151 CPC

Kum.Hitha Harish, D/o Late B.K.Harish, aged about 22 years, R/at Flat No.301, No.253, Lakshith Golden Nest Apartment, 9th Main Road, 2nd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079.

Whereas, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit Under Order VII rule 1 & 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure against the Defendant, effect the Equitable Partition of the suit schedule properties by allotting half share to the plaintiff and carve out the share of the plaintiff by metes and bounds and put the plaintiff in possession of half share in the suit schedule properties, after evaluation of liabilities discharged by Plaintiff.

Hence, you are hereby summoned to appear in person or through a pleader on **05/12/2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer all material question relating to the above case, failing which, the matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

SCHEDULE-A

All the piece and parcel of immovable property residential building bearing No.454/15 (PID No.52-3-15), situated at Thara Subbarao Road, Sunkenahalli, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 18.28 Mtrs., and North to South 12.19 Mtrs, with built up area approximately 100 square consisting of G+3 floors and bounded on the: **East by:** Property No.521, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property No.453, **South by:** Property No.455

SCHEDULE-B

All the piece and parcel of vacant site bearing No.510, new Municipal No.510-11, formed in Sy.No.3 and 69 of Gavipuram, assigned with PID No.52-54-11, New PID No.15-W0053-1, situated Samudragupta Road, Bhavani Nagar, Bengaluru measuring East to West: 33 ½ feet and North to South: 20 feet in all measuring 670 square feet and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.484, **North by:** Site No.509, **South by:** Site No.511.

SCHEDULE-C

d) 110 Car of Hyundai make, having registration No.KA-05-MR 4616
b) One I phone of apple make
c) One Laptop of DELL make

The above stated movables are in the possession of Plaintiff in a place where she is staying at No.349, 41 Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560070.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 13/11/2024

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff: **P. ANAND**
No.54/25, II Floor, 8th 'E' Main, Near Jain Temple, 4th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 011.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.5,56,99,895/- (Rupees Five Crore Fifty Six Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Five only)** as on **07-11-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **08-11-2024** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. New Janatha Saw Mill, No.1340, B.M. Road, Rai Channapatna - 562 160. No.2) Mr. Syed Shakil Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.3) Mrs. Afrin Nikkath, W/o. Mr. Syed Shakil Ahmed, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.4) M/s. Janatha Timber Traders, No.108/104, Karemegala Doddi, Channapatna (Tk.), Ramnagara (Dist.) - 562 160. No.5) Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha, No.1287/23, Yadgar Mohalla, Ward No.29, B Division, Channapatna - 562 160. No.6) M/s. G.A. Construction, No.1520-C, MBC Complex, Nizam Chowk, Channapatna - 562 160. No.7) Mr. Saheb Miyan, S/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, No.1023, M.G.Road, Kulumbudi, PWD Circle, Channapatna - 562 160. No.8) Mrs. Rohina Banu, W/o. Mr. Saheb Miyan, No.1023, M.G. Road, Kulumbudi, PWD Circle, Channapatna - 562 160. No.9) Mrs. Wajeeha Banu, W/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, No.1023, Uppar Daira, Near Jamiya Masjid, M.G. Road, Ram Nagare - 562 160.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - B: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.56/2, measuring 0.06 Guntas situated at Tattekere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatne Taluk, Ramnagara. Bounded on: East by - Road, West by - Sy.No.61/2, North by - Private Property, South by - Magadum Sa Property.

Schedule - C: (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shafiq Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Syed Ahmed Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.61/2, measuring 0.22 Guntas situated at Tattekere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk. Bounded on: East by - Road, West by - RT Narayanaswamy Property, North by - Private Property, South by - Magadum Sa Property.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,40,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh only) (For Schedule - B & C)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
06-12-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru - Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571 511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571 511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.**, together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 15-11-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

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EXPRESS READ

8 people killed, 17 hurt in knife attack in China

BEIJING: Eight people were killed and 17 others wounded on Saturday in a knife attack at a vocational school in eastern China, and the suspect – a former student – has been arrested, police said. The attack took place in the evening at the Wuxi Vocational Institute of Arts and Technology in the city of Yixing in Jiangsu province, police in Yixing said in a statement, confirming the toll. Police said the suspect was a 21-year-old former student at the school, who was meant to graduate this year, but had failed his exams. "He returned to the school to express his anger and commit these murders," police said, adding that the suspect had confessed. The school – which has about 12,000 students from around the world, according to its website – is located about 150 kms west of Shanghai. It offers courses in art, design, ceramics, and fashion, among others. In Yixing, police said emergency services were fully mobilized to treat the wounded, and provide follow-up care for those affected by the attack. No video of the attack was immediately seen on social media – a sign that authorities possibly removed footage from various platforms. AFP

JM FINANCIAL

JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited
Corporate identify Number : U67190MH2007PLC74287
Registered Office Address : 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025
T: +91 22 6630 3030 | F: +911 22 6630 3223 | www. Jmfinancialarc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Piramal Capital and Housing Finacne Ltd have assigned a pool of Loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created therefor along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JMFARC (JM) (herein reffered as Assingee). The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of (JM) assignee. Under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Nnotice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to JM, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to JM by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 02700004430 of Davangere Branch) Nagaraja V (Borrower) Veerabhadrappa H S (Co Borrower 1)	15-10-2024 / ₹688126/- (₹ Six lakh Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six Only) NPA (01-10-2018)	Site No.51, Kh No.1461/1317/5541/51 Ward No.04, Beside Church, Pavagada Road Near Railway Gate, Challakere. Challakere Chitradurga Karnataka :- 577522

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to JM as aforesaid, JM shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of JM. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 18.11.2024 **Sd/- (Authorised Officer)**
Place : Karnataka **JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited**

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

₹1.57 L CR Debt-oriented MFs saw strong recovery in Oct.

Relief to middle class? Inflation offsets hike in tax exemption limit

Though the New Tax Regime has simplified tax calculations, experts say that the benefits may not be as substantial as they seem when adjusted for inflation

MONIKA YADAV @New Delhi

THE government recently claimed that Income tax burden on the common man has come down in the last 10 years, thanks to the Narendra Modi-led government's various measures. It claimed that taxpayers in the ₹2.5-7 lakh tax bracket who paid on an average ₹ 25,000 (₹43,000 after adjusting for inflation) in FY14 are now paying zero tax. Even those in the ₹ 7-10 lakh income category, the average tax they paid in FY24 was only ₹43,000.

Has the tax burden on the middle class indeed come down? Let us do a reality check on the government claims.

A historical context

To understand the impact of these changes, let's take a look at the income tax scenario from FY 2013-14 to FY 2024-25. In FY 2013-14, an individual earning ₹250,000 was not liable to pay any tax after considering available rebates. Fast forward to FY 2024-25, and the basic exemption limit under the Old Tax Regime stands at ₹500,000. This shift illustrates the government's recognition of rising living costs and its attempt to alleviate some of the financial burdens on taxpayers.

The introduction of the New Tax Regime has been a game-changer, particularly for those with incomes up to ₹7,00,000, who do not pay any tax. For salaried employees, this threshold rises to ₹750,000, marking a significant step towards making tax compliance easier. However, while the New Tax Regime has simplified tax calculations, it is essential to understand that the benefits may not be as substantial as they seem when adjusted for inflation.

Analysing the numbers

Let's delve deeper into the numbers. In FY 2013-14, individuals earning ₹700,000 paid a tax of ₹70,000, and those with an income of ₹15,00,000 faced a tax liability of ₹280,000.

In stark contrast, by FY2024-25, taxpayers earning ₹700,000 are exempt from tax, while those earning ₹15,00,000 pay only ₹140,000.

This significant reduction in tax liability highlights the government's intention to provide relief to taxpayers. However, one must consider the inflationary impact of these changes, as explained by Chetan Daga, founder of AdvantEdge Consulting.

INFLATION-EFFECT ON INCOME TAX SLABS

Annual income in FY14 (₹ in lakh)	Inflation adjusted Income in FY24 (Assuming 5% interest) (₹ in lakh)	Inflation adjusted Income in FY24 (Assuming 7% interest) (₹ in lakh)	Tax rate as per New Regime
2.5-7	4-11	5-14	Nil
7-10	11-16	14-20	10%
10-15	16-24	20-30	15-20%
15-25	24-41	30-49	30%
25-50	41-81	49-98	30%

Note: Figs have been rouded off to nearest whole number

Assuming an annual inflation rate of 8%, the ₹250,000 threshold from FY 2013-14 would equate to approximately ₹513,000 in FY 2024-25.

While the government has increased the non-taxable income limit to ₹500,000, this change essentially aligns with inflation rather than providing genuine tax relief, according to Daga.

The reality of Inflation

"If we change the assumption of inflation rate from 8% to 11% per annum, ₹250,000 in FY 2013-14 nearly becomes ₹ 700,000 in FY 2024-25.

As such, the increases in basic exemption limit and corresponding tax reliefs appear largely inflationary in nature, and not in the nature of extra concessions given by the government," illustrates Daga. He adds, though the New Tax Regime has certainly eased the compliance burden for the taxpayers, but has not granted significant tax savings in the real sense, after adjusting the effect of inflation.

According to Pune-based tax expert, Pritam Mahure, "When we look at these numbers in isolation, it may appear that tax liabilities have decreased. However, inflation has eroded much more than the stated tax savings of around ₹25,000. Therefore, these figures should not be considered in silos but rather in comparison to the overall economic landscape. As the world becomes increasingly fluid, many high-income individuals are contemplating leaving the country due to the burden of direct taxes."

Meanwhile, Vivek Jalan, partner with Tax Connect Advisory Services pointed that on an income of ₹7 lakh, an individual had to pay Income Tax of ₹29,000 approximately in FY14-15 after a deduction towards investment and Mediclaim. It is a fact that today under the new tax regime, they have to pay NIL on the same level of Income.

"However, considering the Cost of Inflation of approx. 6% pa, the present value of ₹7 lakh income of FY14-15 is ₹12.50 lakh today and on which the tax is ₹90,000 in the new regime in FY24-25. Hence, the government should consider easing out the tax rate in the new regime and make it the only regime as the Income Tax Act goes for a comprehensive review on 1 Feb 2025," stated Jalan.

While the changes in tax regulations have undoubtedly eased compliance burdens, the real savings for taxpayers may not be as significant as they seem when considering inflation. It is crucial for individuals to remain proactive in managing their personal finances by understanding how these changes affect their tax liabilities.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

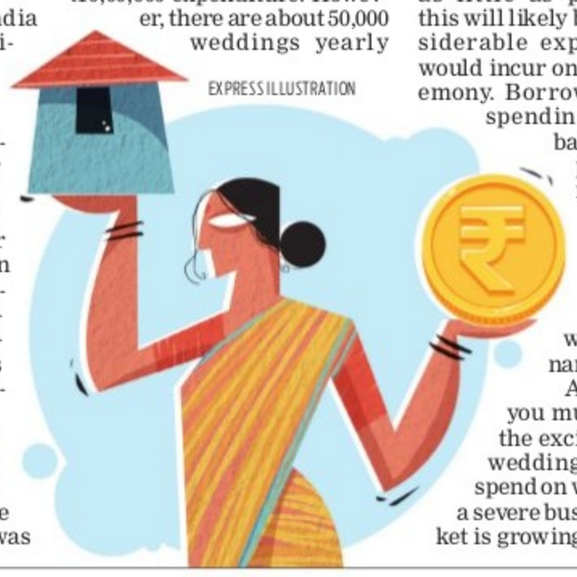
WEDDING EXTRAVAGANZA: HOW TO SPEND THE RIGHT WAY

THE mother of all wedding seasons is upon us. If you believe pundits (and we are talking priests and financial experts together), there are 30% more auspicious moments in the 2024-25 wedding season than ever. A report estimates that Delhi traders expect the wedding business to be worth ₹6,00,000 crore this season. That means households would spend that amount. That is a colossal sum.

The Reserve Bank of India released a report on the finances of municipal corporations in India last week. The data on cumulative annual revenue receipts for the latest year suggest that this amount is three and a half times more than the money major municipalities like those in Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bengaluru, and others earn. According to another RBI statistical set, the money is about 5% of the total household bank deposits.

Companies anticipate the significant expenditure households make for a once-in-a-lifetime event like marriage. The excitement was evident in a conference call India Hotels, the Tata company that owns and manages The Taj Group of Hotels and other brands, held recently. The word 'wedding' was mentioned several times in the conversation. The company looks to benefit from its presence at 125 locations in India and abroad. The word used was to create 'Instagram-able' moments for customers. That is just one example. There are so many elements in the wedding industry.

An interesting statistic shows that about 35 lakh weddings are held every year. They are split into five categories based on expenditure, starting from ₹3,00,000 to over ₹1 crore. The maximum weddings are in the second category of ₹10,00,000 expenditure. However, there are about 50,000 weddings yearly for which over ₹1 crore is spent. The wedding industry is growing at 25% every year. That is excellent news for the economy overall.



If you are getting married this year or planning to host one for your children, you must take note of the demand and supply side of things. You can plan the type of wedding you wish to have and plan for your finances for the big day. An effort to invest for two to three years before the wedding day could give you enough spending power.

Based on your saving and investing capability, you must make an appropriate allocation towards a wedding kitty. A financial advisor can help you do just that. The idea is to borrow as little as possible since this will likely be the most considerable expenditure you would incur on a personal ceremony. Borrowing and then spending is usually a bad idea from a personal finance standpoint. By being rational, you can have as lavish a wedding as you want through financial planning.

As an investor, you must take note of the excitement around weddings. The urge to spend on weddings drives a severe business. The market is growing at a much faster clip than most other sectors. If the deposit growth remains at 12-13% each year and the size of the wedding industry continues to grow at twice the rate, the industry is likely to scale new peaks in terms of the size of the business.

Companies in travel and tourism, wedding-related services, hotels, venue and catering, and jewellery would continue to prosper. You must keep an eye on businesses that efficiently capitalise on such spending. Discussing your investment options with your financial advisor is a good idea.

The problem with the wedding business could be that the unorganised industry primarily drives it. It is a collective effort of many small and medium-sized privately run businesses. Fewer listed companies offer end-to-end wedding services that allow you to invest in a high-growth business.

When companies achieve a critical mass of wedding-related services, they list them on stock exchanges. Implementing the goods and services tax is increasingly getting more small and medium businesses into the taxation system.

For now, you may want to look at thematic funds like consumption funds or exchange-traded funds. Over time, you may be able to own a wedding thematic fund that would specifically target investing in businesses that benefit from your spending on weddings.

MONEY-WISE

RULES FOR THE RICH & THOSE WHO WANT TO BE WEALTHY

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

MORGAN Housel, a venture capitalist and a great author, keeps saying 'Getting Rich is easy, staying rich is tough'. I had to speak to a bunch of successful business people (including professionals like doctors and advocates) and I told them the following:

- The worst thing a rich man can (should) do is to get divorced. It is the most expensive thing you can ever buy. It destroys the family and your balance sheet too.
- Bringing up children in this environment is art, science and luck! This has nothing to do with money, but everything to do with money values. What values you have and what you are able to give to your children is a huge, huge challenge!
- Keeping meticulous accounts and investment details is going to be very useful especially If you are in business and have business taxation. For a salaried person, the chances of an IT probe are much lesser, but business men (and doctors) run this risk. Just be extra careful!
- Most of your happiness is from 'experiences' and not from goods. Being able to buy and enjoy experiences also costs money -but it costs a lot of time, effort, communication, etc. and you talk about it for a far greater time than the 'expensive' toys you buy. Once you have money, this is a painful realisation.
- Finding out how many people love you, admire you or are plain jealous of you is very difficult to find out. However, this will show that money is not helping you here – it is being negative! Envy is the tax you pay for being successful, rich, beautiful (handsome), etc. Deal with that.
- The more successful and richer you are it is very unlikely for advisors to tell you the truth about money. No CA or financial advisor is ever going to say 'are you talking through your hat' – so it is necessary to seek good quality, reasonably senior advisors who will push back your fancy ideas.
- There are no shortcuts to managing your health, wealth and relationships. You can't really outsource going to the gym, eating, sleeping and parenting. You have to take time off for your health, supervising your wealth advisors, parenting and keeping your social life active.
- Having money also increases expectations from society – and handling that is not easy. If your show off wealth is a big house, a big car, nice vacations (photos!) – everyone near and dear will want something out of that relationship. It is not easy to manage expectations – even the government levies taxes on conspicuous consumption! Our own expectations from ourselves and from the markets in which we have invested is also likely to go up much faster than what the market will do.
- We keep worrying about how we look, how our money gets used, and tons of other things. In most cases we assume that we are going to live for eternity! Actually, let's face it.
- In 2224, there is no chance that anybody will remember you!

Dissent against company resolutions by institutional investors declining: Study

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

DISSENT expressed against company resolutions by institutional investors have come down recently, according to a study conducted by PRIME Database.

As per it, shareholder resolutions where more than 20% institutional shareholders expressed their dissent, by casting a negative vote, across all companies listed on NSE (main board), came down to 16% (or 1581 out of 10,092 resolutions for which voting details of institutional shareholders is available) in the in the recently concluded proxy season.

This was in comparison to 17% of total such resolutions in the same period in 2023-24 and 2022-23. In Nifty-50 companies too, while shareholder resolutions where more than 20% of Institutional Shareholders voted against increased to 11% of total resolutions (or 63 in number) as compared to 9% of total (or 45 resolutions) in the same period last year. According to Pranav Haldea, MD, PRIME Database Group, a closer inspection reveals that 18 out of the 63 resolutions belong to a single company. Excluding this, the number of such resolutions would have dropped to 8% of total (or 43 resolutions). Like in previous years, most of such resolutions were not voted in favour by institutional investors related to board changes and remuneration.

Haldea said, this is an encouraging sign as it shows that firms are continuing to take cognizance of minority shareholders' interests and are also engaging with investors to understand their concerns prior to proposing resolutions. On an overall basis, in the first half of 2024-25, a total of 14,494 resolutions were proposed to be passed in 2,824 shareholder meetings of 1,995 companies which were listed on NSE as on 30 September 2024.

Govt to remind taxpayers of 'undisclosed' foreign assets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE income tax department would send 'reminders' to taxpayers who missed disclosing foreign assets or income from foreign sources while filing income tax returns (ITRs) for assessment year (AY) 2024-25.

In a press statement, the tax department has said that it would guide and assist taxpayers with accurately completing Schedule Foreign Assets and reporting income from foreign sources in their Income Tax Returns (ITR).

This is part of a Compliance-Cum-Awareness Campaign for Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25 launched by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). As part of this campaign, informational messages will be sent through SMSes and email to resident taxpayers who have already submitted their ITR for AY 2024-25.

"These messages are intended for individuals identified through information received under bilateral and multilateral agreements, suggesting that they may hold foreign accounts or assets, or have received income from foreign jurisdictions. The purpose is to remind and guide those who may not have fully completed Schedule Foreign Assets in their submitted ITR for AY 2024-25, especially in cases involving high-value foreign assets," says a statement by the CBDT.

By leveraging data obtained through the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI), the department is working to create a more efficient, taxpayer-friendly system.

CBDT

Compliance with Schedule FA and FSI is mandatory under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, which requires the full disclosure of foreign assets and income. According to the tax department, the initiative highlights the Income Tax Department's commitment to using technology to simplify taxpayer compliance and reduce human interaction.

"By leveraging data obtained through the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI), the department is working to create a more efficient, taxpayer-friendly system," says the tax department.

The CBDT expects all eligible taxpayers to take advantage of this opportunity to fulfil their tax responsibilities and contribute to the nation's economic development.

This effort not only is in line with the government's vision for a developed India but also fosters a culture of transparency, accountability, and voluntary compliance.

Anil Ambani's Reliance Group sets up centre to push 2030 growth strategy

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

ANIL AMBANI'S Reliance Group has formed a corporate centre for expansion and innovation as part of its 2030 growth strategy.

"The RGCC (Reliance Group Corporate Centre) will serve as a strategic hub, providing guidance to the Group's companies as they pursue new opportunities and technological advancements," the company said in a statement on Sunday.

The core team of RGCC will comprise industry leaders Sateesh Seth, Punit Garg, and K Raja Gopal. Garg currently leads as CEO of Reliance Infrastructure, while K Raja Gopal has been at the helm of Reliance Power for six years.

He has over 27 years experience in the power sector. Other leaders from the Group companies will also be invited to the RGCC. "The establishment of RGCC aims to harness the in-house expertise of these seasoned leaders to support the Group's forward-looking growth initiatives and cultivate a new generation of leadership for future project," the statement said. The RGCC will play a pivotal role in mentoring and developing emerging leaders, blending experience with fresh talent to propel the Group towards sustained growth.

According to a Reliance Group spokesperson, "This strategic move aims to steer the Group's future growth by tapping into the vast experience of these leaders, will help navigate industry challenges and capitalise on new opportunities, drive innovation, and deliver exceptional value to our customers and stakeholders."

Sinner sweeps past Fritz to win ATP Finals

Jannik Sinner won the ATP Finals on Sunday after beating Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 to claim his first title at the season-ending event in Turin. Italian Sinner's triumph on home soil capped a near-perfect year in which the 23-year-old won eight tournaments, including his debut Grand Slam victories at the Australian and US Opens.

'Gukesh has got a similar mental wiring like Kohli'

The chess player and Virat are similar in that they perform at their best when the pressure is at their highest: Mental coach Paddy Upton

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

WHEN Paddy Upton was first approached by D Gukesh's camp, the South African mental conditioner wasn't quite sure whether to work with the 18-year-old. While Upton doesn't have a hard and fast rule about working with younger athletes, he prefers to avoid working with individuals 'who are young mainly because their sense of self-awareness and ability to self-reflect often hasn't developed'. Upton, though, straightaway agreed to work with the 'genius'. In an interview with this daily, the South African also talks about why he sees shades of Virat Kohli in Gukesh and why India's chess ace has prepared to face the best version of Ding Liren. *Excerpts:*

Paddy Upton

On whether he has worked with athletes younger than Gukesh

I have worked with younger athletes, yes. But not very often. I tend not to work with athletes who are too young mainly because their sense of self-awareness and ability to self-reflect often hasn't developed. For that reason, I was a bit hesitant before saying 'yes'. I wanted to meet Gukesh, and assess his ability to self-reflect. But it didn't take very long to realise that he's a highly skilled individual. It was easy to say 'yes'.

On his initial conversations with Gukesh

The initial conversations are just to get a sense of each other, generally talk as two humans would... I didn't dive into anything professional or anything. I wanted to understand from him a little bit about his journey thus far in chess, what got him into chess, what his aspirations are and why he has those aspirations... his intentions, ideas and goals behind that journey. I found very soon that Gukesh is someone who has really thought those things through. He is somebody who is deeply engaged with his life and his journey.

On his experiences of working with chess players before

I have worked with Yuzvendra Chahal (laughs; Chahal was an age-group chess player at the national level). I have calculated this, chess is the 20th different sport I have worked in over the last 25 years... the main difference is that in the other 19 sports, the primary tool of performance was some form of physical attribute. Whether it was bowling, batting, hitting hockey balls... in chess the primary tool is the mind. That was the fascinating thing. In chess, the mind is front and centre as opposed to being a supporting function.

On how he approached this challenge

The principles of success are all universal. Of not over-preparing, of not under-preparing, the concept of overthinking, the concept of pressure, fear, doubts, anxiety, overestimating an opponent, underestimating an opponent, all of those mental obstacles... the principles are the same. The skill is that the principles apply differently to different individuals... whether they are introverts or extroverts. Do they tend to be externally driven or internally driven? Now they are applied differently in different sports. But the principles remain universal. There are no secrets to success.

On some of the current literature about the final labelling Gukesh as the clear favourite

When it comes to playing in a final, there are teams or individuals that overestimate their opponents like it may happen when somebody plays Australia in a WC final because they have won so many finals. It's also possible to underestimate an opponent. Both of those can be mistakes. The reality is that Ding is the world champion and a year ago he was playing exceptionally good chess that got him the title. The reality is that form can come back in any given moment. Gukesh is certainly not being lured by the common narrative that he's the favourite and Ding has been struggling. He's preparing for the best version of Ding and a true champion needs to beat the incumbent champion at his best. Gukesh is preparing like he's going to meet Ding in his best form. That's been the approach for the last six months since winning the Candidates. What can count in Gukesh's favour is that he's someone who tends to play his best in the biggest moments. The chess he played to win the Candidates shows that he has genuine big match temperament. His performance during the Olympiad... there were some clutch moments where he really stepped up under the highest pressure. That's a gift and he has really worked on it. That's why I would liken him to Virat Kohli in that regard; Virat is someone who stands up when the pressure is at the highest, like the World Cup final earlier this year. Gukesh has got a similar mental wiring that when the stakes are highest, that's when he tends to play at his best. Although they are completely different personalities, in this regard, they are similar.

Bumrah set to lead India in series opener at Perth

ENS/AGENCIES @Chennai

JASPRIT Bumrah is set to lead India in the opening Test against Australia at Perth beginning on November 22 (Friday). Rohit Sharma, who is on paternity leave following the birth of his second child on Friday, has decided to join the squad ahead of the second game in Adelaide from December 6. Bumrah has led the visitors in one previous Test, against England in 2022 when Sharma was unavailable.

This opens the door for KL Rahul to open with Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top of the order. Abhimanyu Easwaran may also get a look in as Shubman Gill is running out of time to recover from a blow to the thumb a few days ago.

Rahul, who himself copped a blow during a practice match, came through unscathed. "I had got a bad hit on Day 1 of the game. I am feeling good today, getting ready for the first game. Happy that I could come here early and get used to the conditions," Rahul said in a video shared by BCCI on X (formerly Twitter). "Yeah, I got a lot of time to prepare for this series and I am excited and looking forward to it," he added.

Jasprit Bumrah had captained India once in 2022 against England | BCCI

Team physio Kamlesh Jain said Rahul has responded well to the treatment. "The key for us was to ensure that there is no fracture there. It's 48 hours since the impact and he has responded well to treatments. He should be ready to go," said Jain in the video.

Devdutt to stay back

Meanwhile, the Indian team management has decided to keep top-order batter Devdutt Padikkal in Australia as a batting back-up along with three seamers from the India A squad.

Devdutt was part of the India A squad that played two four-day matches against their Australian counterparts recently. The left-hander, who was recently named in Karnataka's squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, had lukewarm outings during the 'A' tour, making 36, 88, 26, 1. The three pacers are: Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini, who were all part of the India A squad.

Saini had also played at Sydney and Brisbane Tests during the last tour Down Under, till date his only two matches in the traditional format.

NOTES FROM DOWN UNDER

Need to be proactive against Ashwin: Smith

MELBOURNE: Australian batter Steve Smith wants to adopt a proactive approach against R Ashwin in the upcoming series to avoid his struggles against the Indian spinner during the 2020-21 series. Ashwin had nicked off Smith thrice during that rubber, and later in 2023, the Indian off-spinner dismissed the Aussie twice as he could only make 22 runs against his old foe. "I don't like getting out to off-spin in Australia. But he's also a very good bowler and he came in with some decent plans, But then I got on top of him at the SCG when I was a bit more proactive (Smith made 131 and 81). So, that's key for me. Just be proactive against him & not let him settle and bowl the way he wants to," Smith told the Sydney Morning Herald.

McGrath urges Oz to 'go hard' on 'emotional' Kohli

MELBOURNE: Pace legend Glenn McGrath feels Australia have the "ammunition" to target an "emotional" Virat Kohli, who will be under pressure if he gets off to a poor start at the five-match Test series, starting in Perth from November 22. India have won the last four Test series against Australia, including two Down Under. Kohli, who has been India's batting mainstay for over a decade, has struggled with form in Test cricket recently. "If they go hard at him, if he gets in the fight with emotions, there's a bit of chat out there, who knows he might sort of lift," said the 54-year-old former Australia pacer. "But I think he's probably under pressure a little bit, and if he has a couple of low scores to start with, he could really feel it."

Nations League: Netherlands storm into quarters as Germany hit record seven

AGENCIES @Paris

NETHERLANDS outclassed Hungary with a 4-0 victory in their winner-takes-all Nations League encounter on Saturday while record-setting Germany hammered Bosnia and Hercegovina 7-0.

Netherlands and Hungary went into the match tied on five points each and with the winner set to join Germany in ensuring their progress from Group A3 to the quarterfinals.

First-half penalties by Wout Weghorst and Cody Gakpo sent the Oranje on their way, before Denzel Dumfries and Teun Koopmeiners made the game safe in the second period.

"There are always things we can improve upon," Dutch captain Virgil van Dijk told *SBS6*. The match at the Johan Cruyff Arena was briefly interrupted in the seventh minute following a medical emergency on the Hungarian bench. The referee stopped play for some 10 minutes while Hungary's assistant coach Adam Szalai received treatment, shielded from view by huddled players and staff members, as well as a large white sheet. Szalai, 36, was stretchered off to applause from spectators and players alike, the Hungarian FA later released a statement saying he was "conscious" and in a "stable condition".

Netherlands' Jeremie Frimpong (R) fights for the ball on Saturday | AFP

Good fun for Germans

Germany cemented their spot at the top of the group with a 7-0 win over Bosnia — the heaviest in the six-year history of the Nations League. The emphatic result leaves Germany five points ahead of Netherlands with only one match left to play. In Group B1, Georgia played out a 1-1 draw at home to Ukraine and stay two points ahead of the fourth-placed visitors.

Double delight for Carlsen

AGENCIES @Kolkata

WORLD No. 1 Magnus Carlsen completed a remarkable double at the Tata Steel Chess India tournament, clinching the blitz title with a round to spare here on Sunday.

Just days after securing the rapid title, the 33-year-old Norwegian maestro produced a scintillating performance, including a dramatic turnaround against Indian prodigy Arjun Erigaisi in the penultimate round, to reach an unassailable 12 points. Carlsen capped off the tournament in style, defeating Vidit Gujrathi in the final round to finish with three consecutive wins and a total of 13 points to claim the blitz crown.This marks his second double victory in Kolkata, replicating his triumph from 2019. Filipino-American Grandmaster Wesley So staged a phenomenal comeback, winning six straight games and seven of his last eight, to secure second place with 11.5 points. Carlsen also revealed his next plans, saying, "I'm heading to Singapore in a few hours to promote Freestyle Chess with Fabiano Caruana."

EXPRESS READ

Paolini helps Italy to reach BJK Cup semis

MALAGA (SPAIN): Jasmine Paolini won her singles and doubles to lead Italy past Japan 2-1 and back into the semifinals of the Billie Jean King Cup. The fourth-ranked Paolini defeated Moyuka Uchijima 6-3, 6-4 to level the tie 1-1. She then went right back onto the indoor hard court to help Sara Errani beat Shuko Aoyama and Eri Hozumi 6-3, 6-4 to seal the win.

Svercina wins MSLTA 25K ITF tennis tourney

MUMBAI: Czech Republic's Dalibor Svrcina beat top seeded Khumoyun Sultanov from Uzbekistan to bag the singles title in the MSLTA 25K Men's ITF Tennis Tournament. In the final, the second seeded Svrcina battled past Sultanov 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 to win his second title in two weeks. The win propelled Svrcina 38 places higher in the rankings with 25 ATP points.

Indian players celebrate their goal against Japan on Sunday | HOCKEY INDIA

India beat Japan 3-0 to book semifinal spot

ENS @Chennai

IN late January 2024, some 250 kms from Rajgir in Bihar, the venue of the ongoing women's Asian Champions Trophy, India faced Japan after losing to Germany in a penalty shootout in Ranchi. That was their last chance to qualify for the Paris 2024 and Kana Urata's goal in the first quarter was enough for Japan to shatter Indian hearts on a foggy winter evening at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro Turf Hockey Stadium. It was a tectonic moment for women's hockey in the country as immediately after that, head coach Janneke Schopman announced her retirement from the position.

In April, Harendra Singh returned to take over a still hurting team. As the country watched the men's hockey team retain their bronze, the women's team had no option but to prepare their best for the next big event possible-the Asian Champions Trophy. Just ahead of the tournament, the team even witnessed a leadership change from veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia to midfielder Salima Tete. "As captain, I always make sure to keep motivating the team," Tete had said when she took over the role. "We have complete freedom on the pitch, so there is no need to feel pressured. Regarding Paris, we definitely still feel some pain. But we have to move on."

So far, in Rajgir, that freedom has been on display. The defending champions started the tournament with a resounding 4-0 victory over Malaysia and followed it with a narrow 3-2 win against Korea. Deepika's sensational performance helped India smash Thailand 13-0, but their main two challengers were still ahead of them. Paris Olympics silver medalists China and the team that blocked their road to Paris, Japan. India first breezed past China courtesy of the solid defense and a goal each from Sangita Kumari, Tete, and Deepika. On Sunday, Japan pushed India to the brink, but Tete's side still came victorious as Deepika rose to the occasion once again with her two goals and another one from Navneet.

There is no time machine in sport. One might want to go back and change a few results in their favour, but it cannot happen. India could not make it to the Paris Games, but the results from Rajgir have shown that they have moved on and ready to start again.

NATIONAL RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

Tijil Rao wins LGB Formula 4 overall title

ENS/AGENCIES @Coimbatore

TWENTY-two-year-old Bengaluru boy Tijil Rao from Dark Don racing capped a brilliant run to his entire season as he sealed the drivers' championship in the LGB Formula 4 category in the 27th edition of the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship. On a sunny Sunday at the Kari Motor Speedway, Tijil was all smiles as he had opened a massive lead even before the last round was held on the outskirts of Coimbatore. Even though seasoned racer Saran Vikram surprised one and all by winning the first and second races on Sunday, Tijil did not mind it. The morning's surprise was seasoned professional Saran Vikram (Momentum Motorsports), pushing the pedal to the metal and staying ahead. Saran timed 21:24.212 minutes. Mehul Agarwal (21: 25.349) and Tijil Rao (21: 25.545) were behind him.

(Left) Chennai's John Lancaster and Md Ryan finished third in Indian Racing League. Anshuman Singhania, MD, JK Tyre and Narain Karthikeyan, former Motorsports racing driver, did the podium ceremony for LGB Race 3 on Sunday | EXPRESS

In the thrilling Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup presented by JK Tyre race on Sunday, Navaneeth Kumar from Pondicherry pushed as hard as he could to win the 10-lap race in 13:01.601 minutes. He was followed by Anish Shetty (13:02.411) and Manvith Reddy (13:02.503).

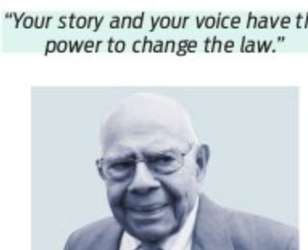
Goa Aces on top

Raoul Hyman and Gabriela Jilkova not only delivered a 1-2 finish for Goa Aces JA Racing but also helped the team clinch the Indian Racing League Championship. The Aces also won the car championship to finish the season with a memorable double. Going into the final race which began after sharp showers, the Goa Aces led Shrachi Rarh Royal Bengal Tigers by two points. But, the latter virtually handed over the championship on a platter within seconds after the race commenced from a rolling start following a crash.

Bengaluru-based Ruhaan Alva (Shrachi Rarh Royal Bengal Tigers) notched a grand double in the Formula 4 Indian Championship. However, it did not prevent South African teenager Aqil Alibhai (Hyderabad Blackbirds) from clinching the title. Alva finished second in the Championship.

ICONS OF LAW

Celebrating trailblazers who transformed the legal landscape of India



DR BR AMBEDKAR

Architect of the Indian Constitution, championed social equality and fought against caste discrimination.

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

ARUNDHATI KATJU

Led the fight to strike down Section 377, transforming India's legal landscape for LGBTQ+ rights.

"Your story and your voice have the power to change the law."

RAM JETHMALANI

A fearless and unconventional advocate, known for tackling some of India's most controversial cases.

"All laws are made in the context of clime and circumstance. Like all biological species, they too must change in response to changes in the context."

SOLI SORABJEE

Champion of civil liberties, committed to defending freedom of speech and expression to his last breath.

"Lawyers don't retire, they practise till they die. My only advice to young lawyers is to choose a stream of practice or even profession which interests you to continue till that time..."

INDU MALHOTRA

A pioneering voice as the first woman advocate appointed directly to the Supreme Court, proving that diversity strengthens justice.

"Society benefits when gender diversity is found on the bench."

DY CHANDRACHUD

Progressive jurist and former Chief Justice, known for landmark judgments that uphold empathy, fairness, and the dignity of all individuals.

"You need to be careful that when you judge others, you are not judgemental of others."

Aditya Kashyap, Advocate at Supreme Court of India and Counsel for the Government of India, in a conversation with Nikhil Abhishek, addresses common assumptions about law school and the legal profession to help aspiring lawyers make informed decisions

THE TRUTH ABOUT LAW SCHOOL AND LEGAL PRACTICE

FACT VS FICTION

1 "All lawyers argue cases in court!"

While many of us do argue cases in court, there are numerous other avenues we can explore. Law offers a plethora of career options beyond litigation. You can work in corporate practice as in-house counsel, join law firms of various sizes, or enter legal academia and research.

There are opportunities in public policy, alternative dispute resolution like arbitration and mediation, judiciary roles, legal journalism, and even working with NGOs. The legal field is dynamic, and with skills in communication and analysis, the possibilities are vast.

2 "You must have a family background in law to succeed!"

As someone who is a first-generation lawyer myself, I can confidently say that while having a family background in law does help, it's really not essential for success. It might provide initial advantages or open doors, but ultimately, your own merit, hard work, and the choices you make determine your career trajectory.

Building your own network through internships, professional associations, and making good career choices are crucial. Many of us without family connections have built successful legal careers.

real deal

3 "Law career guarantees high income and a luxurious lifestyle!"

As popular as the perception might be, a career in law doesn't guarantee high income or a luxurious lifestyle, especially in the early years. Earnings vary widely based on factors like experience, area of practice, location, and the employer.

High-paying roles exist, especially in the private sector and specialised fields, but they are not the norm. Junior lawyers often start with modest salaries, sometimes even less than minimum wage, particularly in litigation and district courts. However, as you gain experience and build a reputation, you can start commanding premium fees and your earnings can increase significantly.

4 "Law school and legal practice are monotonous and dull!"

This is far from the truth. While memorisation plays a role in law school, especially during exams, the focus is increasingly shifting towards critical thinking and practical application. Some law schools are experimenting with open-book exams and analytical questions that emphasise understanding and applying legal principles rather than rote learning.

Additionally, technology has transformed the way legal resources are accessed and utilised, allowing students and lawyers to engage more deeply with case analysis, moot court competitions, and hands-on legal work.

5 "Only prestigious law schools lead to successful careers!"

Attending a prestigious law school can provide a head start or certain advantages, such as a strong alumni network and better initial opportunities. However, it's not the only path.

Many successful lawyers come from lesser-known schools. Your career is significantly influenced by your own efforts — networking skills, expertise, reputation, and the choices you make. While a top-tier school can open doors, ultimately, your hard work and skills will determine your success in the legal profession.

6 "Only extroverts and great debaters with exceptional memory can thrive in law!"

While being extroverted and having natural debating skills can be beneficial, especially in litigation, they are not essential for success in law. Even Mahatma Gandhi struggled with nerves during his first case, leaving the courtroom mid-trial.

Similarly, Nani Palkhivala, once hampered by a stammer, became renowned as one of the country's greatest orators. Such examples demonstrate how persistence and determination can overcome personal challenges. Introverted individuals can thrive in areas like legal research, drafting, and advisory roles. It's important to understand your strengths and work on developing the necessary skills.

7 "Lawyers frequently engage in unethical practices and prioritise winning over ethics!"

While unethical behaviour does happen in the legal profession (as it does in any other profession), it is not the norm. These instances often arise due to client pressure to deliver specific outcomes or the intense competition in high-stake cases. Such pressures can sometimes lead to compromises in ethical standards.

However, the vast majority of legal professionals adhere to high ethical standards. Our conduct is guided by codes of ethics, and we are accountable to bar associations and regulatory bodies.

Professionalism and integrity are highly valued in the legal field, and most lawyers prioritise justice and ethical considerations over simply winning cases.

8 "Law school is too expensive and not worth the investment..."

Legal education has become expensive in recent years, especially at certain private colleges and national law schools.

However, many state universities and colleges offer affordable courses and programmes. Additionally, per-capita income has also been increasing, which somewhat offsets the rising costs of legal education. Whether it's worth the investment depends on your financial situation and career goals. You need to assess the costs against potential salaries and opportunities.

Scholarships, choosing schools strategically, and part-time work can help manage expenses.

9 "Legal work leaves no time for personal life or leisure!"

It's true that in the initial years, especially in litigation, maintaining a work-life balance can be challenging due to the demanding nature of the profession. However, it's not impossible.

By being self-aware, setting clear boundaries, prioritising tasks, and leveraging technology, we can manage our workload more effectively. As we gain experience and resources, it becomes easier to balance professional and personal life.

Additionally, understanding the importance of attachment and detachment is crucial; lawyers need to remain professionally attached to their work to perform effectively, while also maintaining personal detachment to preserve their mental and emotional well-being.

10 "Advances in AI will make human lawyers obsolete!"

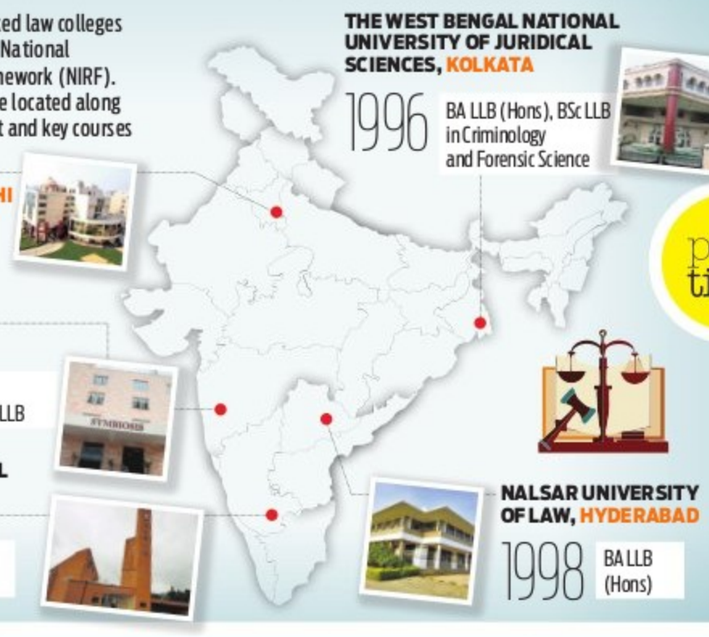
While Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the legal profession by automating repetitive tasks and aiding in research, it's unlikely to replace human lawyers anytime soon. AI lacks the nuanced judgment, ethical considerations, empathy, and strategic thinking that are essential in law.

While AI can process data and perform tasks efficiently, it inherits the biases present in the data it is trained on. Therefore, AI systems can perpetuate existing biases if not carefully managed. Complex legal issues, client interactions, negotiations... they all require human insight.

Just as computers haven't replaced accountants but have instead augmented their work, AI serves as a tool to enhance efficiency without eliminating the need for human lawyers. The human element in law remains indispensable.

SPOTLIGHT! INDIA'S TOP LAW COLLEGES

These are the highest-ranked law colleges of 2024 as declared by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). Let's look at where they are located along with year of establishment and key courses



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI
2008 — BA LLB (Hons)

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE
1977 — BA LLB (Hons), BBA LLB (Hons), LLB

NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU
1986 — BA LLB, LLB (Hons)

THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, KOLKATA
1996 — BA LLB (Hons), BSc LLB in Criminology and Forensic Science

prep time

NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD
1998 — BA LLB (Hons)

BREAKING DOWN CLAT'S STRUCTURE

Navigate the components of the CLAT with confidence

EXAM OVERVIEW

Total Marks: 120
Duration: 2 hours
Mode: Offline (Pen and Paper)
Negative Marking: -0.25 for each wrong answer

SECTION BREAKDOWN

English Language – 22-26 questions (20% of paper)
Current Affairs/GK – 28-32 questions (25%)
Legal Reasoning – 28-32 questions (25%)
Logical Reasoning – 22-26 questions (20%)
Quantitative Techniques – 10-14 questions (10%)

TOTAL – 120 QUESTIONS

Legal terms every law aspirant should know

Habeas Corpus – A writ requiring a detained person to be brought before a court to challenge unlawful detention.

Mens Rea – Refers to the intention or knowledge of wrongdoing that constitutes part of a crime.

Res Judicata – Once a matter has been finally decided by a competent court, no party can reopen it in a subsequent litigation

Ratio Decidendi – The legal reasoning that forms the basis of a court's decision.

Ultra Vires – Acts beyond the powers of a legal entity, making them invalid.

Stare Decisis – The doctrine that courts should follow precedents set by previous decisions to ensure consistency in the law.

Amicus Curiae – A person or organisation offering information, expertise, or insight into a case to assist the court, though not directly involved in the case.

Obiter Dictum – A judge's incidental expression of opinion, not essential to the decision and not legally binding as precedent.

Injunction – A court order that requires a party to do or refrain from specific acts, often used to prevent harm or maintain the status quo.

Bona Fide – Refers to actions or transactions made in good faith without any intention of deceit or fraud.

Beyond the gavel

Legal career paths you (probably) didn't know existed

Ever wondered what else you could do with your law degree? Check out these surprising and exciting career paths that go way beyond the courtroom

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYST
Develops and analyses policies, advising government and advocacy groups; valued for research and critical thinking. Great for those interested in shaping public discourse

LEGAL ACADEMIC
Combines teaching, research, and scholarship; ideal for those passionate about influencing future legal minds and contributing to academia

JOURNALIST/ MEDIA ANALYST
Covers legal issues in media, explaining complex topics to the public. Perfect for those with strong writing and investigative skills seeking dynamic media careers

ENTERTAINMENT LAW ADVISOR
Supports artists and firms with contracts and dispute resolution in the entertainment industry; ideal for those merging law with creative work

LEGAL TECH SPECIALIST
Merges law and technology, working on legal software, AI tools, and tech solutions; great for those interested in the evolving legal tech field

No CLAT? No problem!

THESE PREMIER LAW COLLEGES ADMIT STUDENTS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE ENTRANCE EXAMS AND ACADEMIC CRITERIA, ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR CLAT SCORES

College	Exam Accepted	College	Required 12th score %
NLU, Delhi	AILET	Alliance University, Bengaluru	50%
Symbiosis Law School, Pune	SLAT, AIAT	Manipal University, Jaipur	50%
IIT Kharagpur	IIT LLM Entrance Exam	Amity University, Noida	60%

— Compiled by Nikhil Abhishek

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DAY'S DIARY

Happy Birthday

Margaret Atwood, a Canadian writer best known for her prose fiction and for her feminist perspective, was born on this day in 1939

EARLY LIFE

As an adolescent, Margaret divided her time between Toronto, her family's primary residence, and the sparsely settled bush country in northern Canada

LITERARY CAREER

She first came to public attention as a poet in the 1960s with her collections *Double Persephone* (1961), winner of the EJ Pratt Medal

AWARDS

She won the PEN Pinter Prize in 2016 for the spirit of political activism. Her many other honours include two Governor General's Literary Awards

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

THE CONSENT SHIFT

From self-care products to open discussions about consent and pleasure, sexual wellness is slowly becoming mainstream

POOJA DAS

IT'S no secret that the Indian subcontinent harbours a rich heritage of ancient knowledge on sexual wellness. From the *Kama Sutra*, a 4th century BCE Sanskrit treatise on sexuality and emotional fulfilment, to the evocative poetry of 9th-century AD mystic poet Andal, and exquisite temple architecture, Indian history is abundant with examples celebrating themes of sexual desire. Yet, more often than not, modern India views sexuality through the lens of morality.

Recently, though, the tides are beginning to turn – albeit slowly. "I do think there's been a shift. Conversations around sexual wellness, especially among younger people, seem more open now. Topics like consent and pleasure, which were once taboo, are starting to be addressed in schools, workplaces, and on social media. It's refreshing to see that attitudes are gradually changing, though there's still a long way to go," says Neha, a 21-year-old from Bengaluru.

Self-Care

One of the biggest shifts in the sexual wellness landscape is the growing availability of products that promote sexual health and intimacy, sparking conversations about pleasure and connection.

"When we first had the idea for MyMuse, our thought was, 'Why hasn't this been done before in India?'" says Anushka Gupta, founder of one of India's first luxury-intimate-wellness brands. "Sexual wellness is such a normal part of life, but because of cultural taboos, these conversations are often avoided. This leads to misinformation around intimacy, which affects people's self-image and their relationships," she adds.

For Gupta, sexual wellness goes beyond the physical. "It's also about emotional connection and self-care," she explains. The response, particularly in progressive cities like Bengaluru, has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting a growing openness to products in this space.

Sexual wellness is such a normal part of life, but because of cultural taboos, these conversations are often avoided

– Anushka Gupta, co-founder, MyMuse

A pleasure-positive approach provides not just information about the risks involved but also a vision for good sex that is safe, consensual, pleasurable, and joyful

– Leeza Mangaldas, sex educator-author

Dr Tanaya Narendra, popularly known as Dr Cuterus on social media, started creating content around sexual health to combat rampant misinformation. "The fact that we now have a movie like *Thank You for Coming*, which focuses on women's pleasure, shows just how much the conversation has shifted," she observes. "There's been a huge shift, especially after the pandemic, as more medical professionals came onto social media to discuss and debunk health misinformation."

Social media has undoubtedly played a key role in normalising discussions about sexual health. "Influencers and medical professionals make it easier for us to understand how to deal with our own sexual needs and pleasure, and how to understand a partner's needs too," says Neha.

Dr Narendra likens sexual wellness to other pillars of health, asserting, "Eating, sleeping, and having desires are natural aspects of being human." However, she acknowledges the medical community's shortcomings, noting that specialisation in sexual health is still undervalued or dismissed.

Building Intimacy

For Bengaluru-born sex educator and author Leeza Mangaldas, India's conservatism around sex stems from a colonial legacy. "We've long been conditioned to feel a lot of shame around sex," she says, adding that this stigma makes it difficult for people to access safe, reliable resources.

Through her content, Mangaldas advocates for comprehensive, pleasure-inclusive sex education. "A pleasure-positive approach provides not just information about the risks involved but also a vision for good sex that is safe, consensual, pleasurable, and joyful," she explains.

Artist Indu Harikumar uses storytelling to explore themes of gender, sexuality, and consent. Her journey into this space began with her 2016 people-powered project, '100 Indian Tinder Tales.' "Initially, I wasn't sure if people would openly talk about their dating experiences," she recalls. But as she collected and shared stories, Harikumar found her own sense of shame around the subject dissolving.

"Coming from a background in children's books, I was conscious about how people would perceive this shift in my work," she says. Over time, she developed a way of telling these stories that "doesn't aim to shock, but instead creates safe spaces for these discussions."

Her recent interactive performance piece, 'Sex in the City,' brought her work to a live audience in Bengaluru. Through storytelling and illustration, the piece engaged viewers in a safe, interactive environment. Reflecting on intimacy, Harikumar adds, "It can be scary. We want connection, yet we're afraid of the risks that come with it. Today, we have more vocabulary around it, but even with openness, intimacy is not something that conversations alone can resolve. It's also about going on your personal journey."

Expanding Horizons

For Gupta, the growth of the sexual wellness industry is a promising sign. "Seeing other brands means the conversation is expanding. I'm optimistic that, eventually, sexual wellness will be as normalised and accessible as beauty or lifestyle categories."

Yet, it hasn't been very smooth sailing on social media. "Censorship on social media can be a major roadblock. Platforms are often strict about what they consider acceptable. Many creators and artists are flagged or restricted for discussing sensitive topics, even when handled responsibly," says Avantika Mehta, founder of The Ladies Compartment, a sexual wellness blog.

Mangaldas agrees. "There are challenges, but it's worth remembering that ten years ago, even the words consent and boundaries were not nearly as familiar. We've come a long way, and I'm hopeful for the future."

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales, and marketing with well-known hotels and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a Sunday brunch voucher for 1 person worth ₹2,500 at Neo Kitchen - Hilton Embassy Manyata Business Park**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Glögg;
2) Champurrado;
3) Borscht

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Giridhar Shree
2) Sankar K Murthy
3) Murali Shimoga Lakshminarayana

CITY READ

Karnataka wins national throwball tournament

Karnataka's under-19 throwball team emerged victorious at the CISCE National Throwball Tournament, held in Tirupur recently. The team, led by Captain Hafsa and Vice-Captain Chhavi, showcased exceptional skill and teamwork, securing the championship trophy. The winning squad included players Nissi Chaithra, Faby, Areeza, Pearl, Rinaadh, Krithikha, Anjali, Shreya, Captain Hafsa, Sancia, Vice-captain Chhavi, along with their coach Mallesh S Dhanwade.

Two-day event celebrates MSMEs

Proficorn 2024, a two-day mega event celebrating India's MSMEs, was held recently, bringing together over 1,600 business owners. The event aimed to highlight the contributions of micro, small, and medium enterprises, which account for 30 per cent of India's GDP and provide livelihoods to over 111 million people. Organised by Quantum Leap, the event featured keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking sessions aimed at empowering entrepreneurs. Co-founder Rajiv Talreja emphasised the importance of acknowledging MSMEs as the backbone of India's economy and their role in shaping the job market.

The 12th edition of the India Inclusion Summit took place over the weekend, celebrating the stories of differently-abled persons from across the country

Celebrating inclusive voices

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

BEING differently-abled or having a loved one who is, can come with its own complex set of challenges in a world that is often dismissive of their needs and structured to cater to able bodied people. In such a world, a space that prioritises the voices of differently abled people, can be crucial to changing narratives around disability. The annual India Inclusion Summit seeks to do exactly this by platforming the stories of differently-abled persons, caregivers, activists, artistes, NGOs, those working on assistive technologies and others working in the sphere of disability. "They are people with aspirations, dreams, and have the same capabilities, and all we need to do is to provide them with a platform. I wanted to change the narrative around disability, and share positive stories, and stories of unsung heroes. The summit is an immersive experience, and I think what you see here is nothing but love, joy and compassion. You will go out having a bigger faith in humanity, if nothing else," says VR Ferose, a San Francisco-based technologist of Bengaluru origin, who founded the summit 12 years ago, after his son was diagnosed with autism.

Among the highlights at this year's summit was a discussion with 2024 paralympic high jump silver medalist Nishad Kumar, badminton bronze medalist Manisha Ramadass and Sathyanarayana, the chairperson of para athletics at the National Paralympic Committee.

(Top) Cricketer Amir Hussain Lone signs an artwork; (Above) A visitor is guided through the multi-sensory art exhibit | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

"As a disabled athlete, it feels good to have this platform to raise awareness about how we can do sports, what support is available, and what benefits are there. I did not know about these things when I was in school. I'd be happy if, through me, the message reaches someone," says Kumar. Later on, 2020 Padma shri awardee and social worker Javed Ahmad Tak took the stage alongside health tech company Rise Bionics' Arun Cherian, sharing the story of Tak's recent double leg amputation and the work that went into creating technology that could assist him.

Apart from panel discussions and talks, the event also featured performances by Rajasthani folk singer, Padmashri Ustad Anwar Khan Manganiyar, and visually impaired singer Menuka Poudel, one of the ten finalists on this year's *Indian Idol*. A multi-sensory art exhibit created by recipients of the Art for Inclusion Fellowship, featured work by 11 differently-abled artists from across the country. "The programme allows artists with disabilities to take their art to the next, professional level. You cannot enter the gallery without being blindfolded because we want everyone to experience art through touch, smell, and hearing instead of through sight," says Ganapathy Subramaniam, who spearheaded the programme.

The event has become a space to form a community for many attendees. "This is the third time we are here. Coming here is like being recharged because of all the stories we hear about disabled people achieving great things. We get the energy to go ahead. This is also a good place for parents to get connected to each other, it's a community that supports each other like family," says Rajendra Munje, whose son has autism.

Cyclist Logan Phippin's B'luru visit blended advocacy, fitness and inspiration for the city's cycling community

Pedalling Purpose

EXPRESS FEATURES

AMERICAN professional cyclist Logan Phippen, known for his remarkable journey as an athlete living with type 1 diabetes, recently visited Bengaluru to engage with local fitness enthusiasts and advocate for diabetes awareness. Phippen's visit included a series of events promoting cycling, physical activity, and health management, as well as interactions with the city's growing cycling community.

Phippen's stay in the city marked a significant opportunity for him to connect with India's burgeoning interest in fitness and cycling. "I was excited to get out on the road and experience the reality of riding a bike here on the busy Indian streets," Phippen said. He noted the challenges Indian cyclists face, such as road safety, but expressed optimism about the future. "With growing interest in cycling, more infrastructure to facilitate safer passage for cyclists will naturally follow," he added.

During his visit, Phippen participated in a 5-kilometre run and a cycling event that brought together athletes and fitness enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds. He highlighted the importance of community-driven events in fostering a culture of fitness and supporting aspiring athletes. "India as a whole has a growing cycling scene, which is fantastic," he remarked. "It would be great to see more racing in India or simply more cycling events to showcase the talent here."

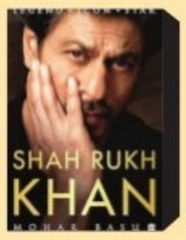
Phippen's visit also included advocating for diabetes awareness, a cause deeply personal to him. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 24, Phippen has since become a prominent voice in the diabetes community. "My diabetes diagnosis was a profound turning point. It allowed me to realise how much I had to honour my body as a sacred vessel for life. I decided right then to recommit to cycling, a passion I had held since I was young," he said.

As a member of Team Novo Nordisk, the world's first all-diabetes professional cycling team. Emphasising the connection between physical activity and diabetes management, he said: "Whether it's a brisk walk or a light workout, getting active regularly makes a difference."

BOOK NOOK

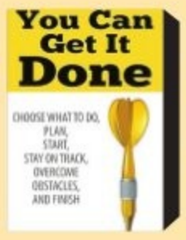
Treasurer of Piggy Banks
Translated by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra

The present volume contains Mehrotra's translations of about 75 poems selected from Vinod Kumar Shukla's poetry collections published between 1971 and 2013, and also some new and uncollected poems.



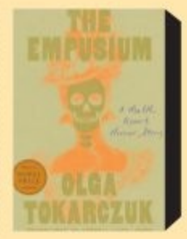
Shah Rukh Khan
By Mohar Basu

Featuring never-before-seen photographs by veteran photographer Pradeep Bandekar, intimate stories, and fan accounts of the actor who rules the hearts of millions, this book is as much a paean to Shah Rukh's career as it is a tribute to the man himself — the star, the icon, the legend.



You Can Get It Done
By Liisa Kyle

The seasoned life coach has designed a book that empowers people to enhance productivity. The author presents strategies for devising effective plans of action, improving time management skills, overcoming self-sabotage, evaluating when it is acceptable to quit and when it is not.



The Empusium
By Olga Tokarczuk

In this resort horror story set in 1913, a young Polish man with TB arrives at a sanatorium in the Silesian mountains. An exuberant feminist parable from the International Booker winner that takes in philosophy, misogyny, illness and the power of the irrational.

ARTISTIC DISTORTIONS

A visitor explores an exhibition of charcoal sketches by artist Anoosha Gopinath at Alliance Française de Bangalore | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICKFIX

BASIL PESTO SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- **Sourdough bread:** 2 slices
- **Tomato:** 2 slices
- **Fresh basil leaves**
- **Basil Pesto:** 2 tablespoon
- **Mozzarella cheese :** 2 slices
- **Olive oil**
- **Salt and pepper**

METHOD

- Spread a generous layer of basil pesto on one side of both bread slices.
- Put tomato slices and mozzarella on one slice. Sprinkle salt, pepper, and add fresh basil leaves.
- Close the sandwich with the other slice with pesto side down.
- Grill on a hot skillet with a drizzle of olive oil for 3 minutes until the cheese melts.
- Press down lightly until the bread is golden brown. Serve hot.

Contributed by **Abhay Rathore**, Delhi

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

Since the pollution levels have risen, my two-year-old pet rabbit is having nasal discharge. How can I provide a safe environment and treat him?

To help your rabbit with nasal discharge, first, make sure he has a clean and safe living space. Keep his cage away from dust and smoke, and clean it regularly. You can use an air purifier to reduce pollutants. Offer fresh hay and clean water to keep him hydrated. If the discharge continues, consult your veterinarian for proper treatment. Your rabbit might need medication or tests for allergies or infections. Keeping your rabbit calm and comfortable will also help him feel better during this time.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

NAVASANA VARIATION 1 ARMS OVERHEAD (BOAT POSE VARIATION 1 ARMS OVERHEAD)

This is a variation of Navasana (Boat Pose). For beginners, the transition to this pose can be developed from the Boat Pose Variation. In regular practice, when someone gets comfortable with the pose, they can raise their arms above their heads, which leads to opening their chest. This pose is also good for the teens as it helps them in muscles-growth and helps to balance and cool down the mind with improved awareness. This pose has been included in Spring Yoga Sequence as it teaches something new and aids in transformation.

STEPS

- Begin in Savasana (Corpse Pose) and bring both the arms close to the hips with palms facing to the floor.
- Bend your knees, bring the feet close to the body, creating a triangle with the legs, floor as the base.
- After a few breaths, raise your legs with bent knees while exhaling.
- Place the arms straight in the air as in Navasana Variation 1, while slightly inclining back.
- Once comfortable in Boat Pose Variation, inhale and raise the arms overhead with the palms facing each other.
- Look straight ahead and bring awareness to the neck, and throat.
- Now, to release, slowly bring down the arms close to both hips to lower them to the ground while exhaling. Return to Savasana and then relax for some time.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the chest and abs.
- There is a gentle movement of the lower back backwards that helps in lengthening the spine.
- The arms and legs receive a good amount of stretch and relaxes the muscles.
- Shoulders and the muscles surrounding the neck become flexible, avoiding any kind of neck and shoulder pain due to muscle strain.
- Aids in ensuring the optimal function of the lungs. Elongates the spine elongates, hips and stabilises the pelvis.
- Improves posture.
- Helps merge the body and the mind to create a physiologic equilibrium.
- Aids in mindfulness.
- Helps achieve a fine line between strength and balance, brings awareness to the arms and shoulders, and lower back.
- Regular practise and improved focus improves confidence for the next level of challenging poses.
- Stimulates the Vishuddha (Throat) Chakra.
- Similarly, the stretch at the core activates the Manipura (Solar Plexus) Chakra, which is responsible for balancing the fire element.
- Not only aids in growth but also helps in inclucating a positive mindset.
- This pose has been included in Spring Yoga Sequences.
- When done carefully, it prepares the body and mind for deeper challenging poses.

LIMITATIONS

- Students can avoid the pose if they have had any recent surgery to the heart or lungs, have vertigo, migraine, or arthritis in knees.
- If you have any injury to the arms, shoulders, or neck area, you should consult with a yoga expert before practise.
- Students with issues related to the body should take it slow or even avoid this practice.
- Seniors can practise this with care. Initially, they may use a block beneath the knees or place the feet on the wall for support.

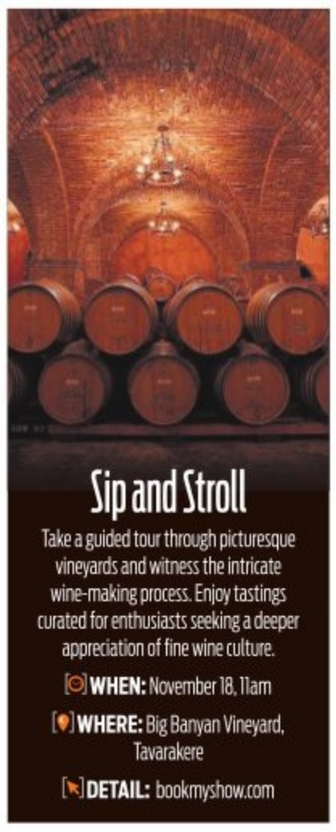
By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Sip and Stroll

Take a guided tour through picturesque vineyards and witness the intricate wine-making process. Enjoy tastings curated for enthusiasts seeking a deeper appreciation of fine wine culture.

WHEN: November 18, 11am
WHERE: Big Banyan Vineyard, Tavarakere
DETAIL: bookmyshow.com

Decoding Mysteries

Challenge yourself at Mystery Rooms, a popular live escape game. Solve puzzles, find clues, and race against the clock in a thrilling, immersive adventure for all ages.

WHEN: November 18, 11am onwards
WHERE: Mystery Rooms, Indiranagar
DETAILS: mysteryrooms.in

Poetry in Motion

Experience Akhyat - Akhyana, an artistic blend of multilingual poetry and Bharatanatyam. This performance will showcase verses of faith, activism, and defiance authored by women, complemented by live music and captivating choreography.

WHEN: November 19, 7pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Dance to Techno

Get ready for an unforgettable night of pulsating music and electrifying energy as you feel the beats of Belgian musician **Charlotte de Witte**, a global techno sensation.

WHEN: November 22, 4pm
WHERE: Manpho Convention Centre, Nagawara
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Rustic Grace

Explore lippan art in this hands-on workshop where you will get to learn the traditional Kutch mud-and-mirror technique, and create your own eco-friendly art panel with this unique heritage craft experience.

WHEN: November 18, 1pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: allevents.in

Laugh Out Loud

Discover diverse comedic talent as India's finest stand-up artistes perform. From witty to edgy, prepare for a night of fresh laughs and unpredictable humour.

WHEN: November 18, 7.15pm
WHERE: Mon Cheri Resto Cafe, Indiranagar
CALL: 97410 16468

Flavours of Italy

Indulge in an exclusive menu inspired by the culinary legacy of Italian chef Antonio Carluccio's recipes. From garlic prawns to torta caprese, enjoy timeless flavours paired with wine curated by Chef Visu.

WHEN: Till November 25, 6.30pm onwards
WHERE: Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield
CALL: 87791 80953

ARTCORNER

A GREEN SYMPHONY

Artist Laxmipriya Panigrahi, who dabbles in miniature-inspired surreal landscapes, paints the wilderness in watercolours

IN STEP WITH THE SACRED

A unique blend of music, dance and mysticism exploring the spiritual journey of love, longing, and divine unity was performed over the weekend

SONU M KOTHARI

IN a captivating blend of movement and rhythm, classical musician Chandana Bala Kalyan, singing melodious ragas, and classical dancer Amrita Lahiri, setting a vivid choreography, wove together mysticism and spiritual symbols at their recent performance – Mandala – in the city. Inspired by the craft of the mandala, the performance transcended into a spiritual journey with each unfolding layers of realisations and acceptances.

The production is a path that traverses love and disappointment to separation, and eventually, comes to an understanding that we are all one at our core. "Mandala art is about concentric circles, finally arriving at the core, the centre. This project's journey is similar. It starts with a devotee and the outermost layer of devotion. It goes through themes of Shringara (love), Viraha (separation), Maya (illusion), and Aikya (dissolution)," explains Kalyan, a multi-genre musician from Mumbai.

Understanding the divine

In this poetic journey, the protagonists are deities Alamelu Manga and Venkateshwara Swami. "Like everything, devotion starts with attraction. We start the production with an adolescent devotee's longing for her beloved's return. She is full of love," shares Kalyan. This stage is also the celebration of physical intimacy. "In tantric practices, physical intimacy is explored through washing the idol and applying chandan on the idol. Here, Alamelu Manga cannot help but experience the divine's physical touch," she adds.

With a 'love is in the air' feeling, the teenage devotee's relationship with God seeps into the next layer, Viraha (separation). Kalyan says, "Here there is knowing and disappointment from Alamelu Manga because the lord is not paying the attention she thinks she deserves. She seeks the help of a sakhi or a friend to whom she cries about all this."

The audience too goes on this emotional journey with the artistes. "There is a moment in this production where Alamelu Manga goes to a temple and the door is closed. Chandana sings it so well that you latch on to that emotion," notes Lahiri. Calling this an unusual staging as the focus is on poetry, philosophy and the essence of Carnatic music, she adds, "You reach out for poetry, music, and dance at your most difficult times and it saves you."

Timeless wisdom

Similarly, Alamelu Manga is rescued from her separation by the thoughts of illusion. "There are too many questions on the aspects of Maya or illusion, which we explore melodically, lyrically, and rhythmically, in the form of raga, swara, laya, thala, and the lyric itself," Kalyan says.

A few ragas employed in the presentation are Shyam Kalyan, Gopriya, Sindhu Bhairavi, Varaali and Senjurutti. "The preparatory stage is a composition of Kabir where we realise that the god is talking to us, and we have not been listening all the while. Then, the devotee understands what the lord is trying to convey," Kalyan notes. The composition ends with the devotee realising that there's only one bright light and merging with the divine in an abhang. With this realisation, the devotee reaches the innermost core of devotion, the centre. This is called Aikya.

Poems by Mirabai, Annamacharya, Dharmapuri Jaavali Subbarayar, Kanakadasa, Kabir, and Soyarabai in Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, and other Indian languages featured in the performance. Throughout history, these saint poets have emphasised that pleasure, suffering, joy, and hardship are temporary and will eventually pass. They remind us to appreciate life and live in the present while remembering that nothing lasts forever.

COMICALLY CURIOUS

From folklore to mythology, supernatural to realism, comics have witnessed waves of transitions, creating a visual world for children

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

THE children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country." – Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The first Prime Minister of Independent India considered children as the most precious resource of any country.

A child's first introduction to art is commonly through the imaginary world of comics and picture books. With moving images entirely taking over the visual language in the form of cartoons and animations, static images that tell a story on print may seem outdated.

Pre-independence India, however, was still new to the 'comic' experience. Celebrated artist and cartoonist Aabid Surti recalls the first time he ever saw a comic book. During the Second World War, foreign troops landed in Bombay and from the dockyard, were taken by train to another place. The trains being slow, Aabid and his friends ran along and on one such day, a soldier, kindheartedly threw them a Mickey Mouse comic book. Aabid had never seen anything like it and the book was ripped apart by the children in all the excitement that ensued. Aabid was left with just one page, which fascinated him so much that it paved the way in his later years for creating many lovable characters.

THE GREAT INDIAN COMIC REVOLUTION

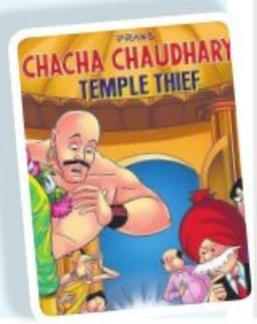
THE true revolution in the Indian Comic industry happened with *Amar Chitra Katha*'s first publication in 1967. It all began with one man's dream. Anant Pai, fondly called Uncle Pai and the Father of Indian Comics, witnessed a quiz show on one of his visits to Delhi, where most of its young contestants could deftly handle questions about Greek mythology but fumbled when the topic shifted to stories from Indian culture. Pai yearned to bring out comics drawn by Indian artists, which revolved around the nation's history and culture.

He was lucky enough to garner the support of the publishing house, IBH, to make his dream come alive and after a long search for the right artist to work on his vision, he found cartoonist Ram Waeerkar, whose ornamental style was exactly what Pai was looking for. Together, they released the first *Amar Chitra Katha* comic, titled *Krishna*, which invaded the hearts of not just the children in India but the adults alike. The book still remains their best selling title till date. *Amar Chitra Katha* went on to feature India's indestructible heroes – from Gods to political leaders, saints and social reformers, as their protagonists and a nation that wasn't as yet introduced to the internet, simply lapped it up and the book was soon a household name. The publication is still available even after the founder's passing in 2011 – a true indication of its immense impact.

THE RIPPLES OF PARTITION

SEVERAL comic book creators were so deeply affected by the horrors of partition that they lived through during India's Independence, that they were most often averse to portraying blood in their comics. In 1971, Pran Kumar Sharma created his famous *Chacha Chaudhury*, published in Diamond Comics, inspired by village elders, who typically had a lot of worldly knowledge to offer. In an attempt to break the stereotypical image of the muscular superhero, old man Chacha was short and he used his wit along with a bamboo stick to outsmart his enemies. Although the series was a spectacular success among children, the artist Pran, whose father served as a police officer, had seen the bloodshed and the brutality of the nation's Partition when the family moved from Pakistan to India in 1948 and this made him shy away from visually illustrating blood. He always made sure it had a tinge of blackness to it.

Similarly, Gulab Kapoor, the publisher of the mystery comic series, *Babloo*, which often featured a murder or two, gave strict instructions to his artist to avoid colouring blood, thanks to which the comic only had white blood! Comics may belong to simpler times, when children had time to kill and imaginations to be fired without the intervention of a myriad coaching classes. But, the enchantment will always continue and someday soon perhaps, children may return to this mystical, incredible world!



THE MAGIC OF *CHANDAMAMA*

AS India was inching towards freedom from colonial rule in 1947, two doyens of the Telugu film industry felt the need to connect young Indians with their rich history and thus was born India's first children's magazine, *Chandamama*. Through folklore and mythology, the duo, Nagi Reddy and Chakrapani, gave millions of Indian children in those pre-television times, a pathway that led to a world of fantasy and magic. The first issue that was published in July 1947, was an instant hit and sold out all its 6,000 copies. At the peak of its popularity in the 1980's, it proudly boasted of a circulation of two lakhs. In 1981, the magazine even launched a Braille edition. When changing times caught up and television slowly took over, the magazine could not sustain itself anymore. The demise of the founders dealt a severe blow and like all good things that once had its glorious moment, the much loved children's magazine died a slow death.

THE WORLD OF INDRAJAL

INDIAN comics started off on a serious note in the 1960's with the launch of *Indrajal Comics*, which had many Superman/ Spiderman-style superheroes like Phantom, Mandrake and Flash Gordon. The first issue that was published in 1964 captivated Indian children and since then, the comic series went on to be published to a total of 805 issues before meeting its painful end in 1990.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUNIL SHEREGAR** S/o **K. VITTAL SHEREGAR** R/at No.5, 5th Main, 8th Cross, RPC Layout Hampinagar, Bangalore- 560104 have changed my name to **SUNIL VITTAL SHEREGAR** vide affidavit dated: 16/11/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASWATH REDDY**, S/o Thimmareddy, aged about 48 years, R/at Sy No. 76/4, Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore-560114. I hereby declare that my minor daughter's correct name **TUSHARA ASWATH REDDY VITTASANDRA** and in my daughter's 10th Marks card wrongly mentioned as **TUSHARA REDDY** henceforth she shall be known and called as **TUSHARA ASWATH REDDY VITTASANDRA** vide affidavit dated 15-11-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **M. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No. 15334182W Ex-Spr Ramakrishna Emmi presently residing of # Vill - Hirenandi Post, Chikkanandi, Tehsil, Gokak, Dist - Belagavi, Karnataka have changed my son's name from **Rohit RE** to **Rohit Ramakrishna Emmi**, vide Affidavit dated 14/11/2024 before **GANGARAJU B N**, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PACHANGANE SHANKAR**, Father of Army No. 13627968M, Rank: L/Nk, Pachangane Hanamant Shankar, R/o Para Record, JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006, have changed my Name to **SHANKAR DEVBA PACHANGANE**. Vide on affidavit dated 14-11-24, sowrn before notary Y.R. Chandrashekar, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Lingappa.L S/o late Lingaraju, aged about 39 years, R/at No.45, 2nd Main Sappalamma Temple Road, Kadirenahalli, New Colony, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070, do hereby declare that I, have changed the name of my minor Son from **Monish.L** to **Charvik.L.** vide affidavit dated 16/11/2024 sworn to before M.Rajendra Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Y. Chuudamani W/o. K. Sivaaraju,** Aged about 56 years, Residing at No. 5/4, 5th Cross, 5th Block, 3rd Phase, Opp. BDA Park, Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Kathariguppe, Hosakerehalli, Bangalore - 560 085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Y. CHUDAMANI** to **Y. CHUUDAMANI** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUBRAMANYA M V,** aged 45 years, S/o. Sri. Venkatanarayana, residing at: SR Enclave-2, No. 1248, 3rd Floor, D No.007, 1st Main Road, Ajvani Road, Krishnappa Block, BEML 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098, do hereby state and hereby declare that my names **SUBRAMANYA M V and SUBRAHMANYA MALLARAJAPATTANA VENKATANARAYANA** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **SUBRAMANYA M V** vide affidavit dated 16-11-2024 sworn to before notary K.V. Prema Kumari Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SHEELA W/o No.JC308437F, Ex Sub, M MUNIRAJ, residing at No.376, Muthu Nilaya, 1st Floor, Nagayana Palya, M.S.Nagar Post,Bengaluru 560033, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHEELA** to **(NEW NAME) R.M.SHEELA** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GANESH .V.K**, S/o Krishna Reddy, aged about 35 years, residing at #246, Vanakanahalli, Village and Post, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Karnataka-562106. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GANESHA .V.K** to **GANESH .V.K**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **GANESH .V.K** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15/11/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **C.N. SREEKANTA SASTRY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No. 15334182W Ex-Spr Ramakrishna Emmi, presently residing of # Vill Hirenandi, Post Chikkanandi, Tehsil Gokak, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka have changed my daughter's name from **Megha RE** to **Megha Ramakrishna Emmi** vide Affidavit dated 14/11/2024 before **GANGARAJU B N**, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **VIJAYKUMAR KRISHTAPPA SALAPUR** and **ASHMI** VIJAYKUMAR SALAPUR, R/a No.101, 9th Cross, Talakaveri Layout, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560092 have changed our daughter name from **DHRITHU VIJAYKUMAR SALAPUR** to **DHRITHISHA VIJAYKUMAR SALAPUR** vide affidavit dt. 15.11.2024 before Notary **N. THULASI**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Pooja Ssivaraj W/o. Pravin Raj Kumar,** Aged about 30 years, Residing at No. 157, Ground Floor, 36th Cross, 9th Main Road, Opp. M.E.S. Ground, Jayanagara 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 041, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **POOJA SHIVARAJ** to **POOJA SSIVARAJ** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **VANI**, D/o. I.S. Nagaraja W/o. Harish .N, resident of Flat No. 412, Prakruthi Providence Crest, 5th Main, 1st Cross, Tatanagar, Bangalore-560092, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VANI** to **VANI HARISH**, vide affidavit dated 16.11.2024, sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Dr DARSHAN V PAWAR, aged about 47 years, residing at No G 2901, Tower G, G Wing, Nikoo Homes 2, Thanisandra Road, Bhartiya City, Near Regal Hospital, VTC: Chokkanahalli, PO: Yelahanka, District: Bengaluru 560064, have changed my son's name from **AREEN PAWAR to AREEN DARSHAN PAWAR** vide Affidavit dated 16-11-2024 sworn before advocate and notary Deepa .M, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) BALA GURU,** S/o JC308437F, Ex Sub,M MUNIRAJ, residing at No.376, Muthu Nilaya, 1st Floor, Nagayana Palya, M.S.Nagar Post, Bangalore 560033, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) BALA GURU** to **(NEW NAME) M.BALA GURU** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KAVITHA**, D/o. GOPALDASS.G, RESIDING AT #66, 5TH CROSS, MAIN CHANNEL ROAD, SARASWATIPURAM, JOGUPALYA, ULSOOR, BEGNALURU-560008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **KAVITHA .G**, VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED: 16/11/2024 SWORN BEFORE NOTARY **L. GOPALAKRISHNA**, BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PACHANGANE ALKA SHANKAR**, Mother of Army No. 13627968M, Rank: L/Nk, Pachangane Hanamant Shankar, R/o Para Record, JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006, have changed my Name to **ALKA SHANKAR PACHANGANE**. Vide on affidavit dated 14-11-24, sowrn before notary Y.R. Chandrashekar, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIYA PAREKH (OLD NAME), aged about 19 years, D/o Dilip Gutraj Parekh, residing at no 60, parekh villa, surveyor street, basavanagudi, bengaluru 560004, have changed my name to **DIYA DILIP PAREKH (NEW NAME),** vide affidavit dated 08/nov/2024, sworn before notary gangaraju. B. N. Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Pravin Raj Kumar S/o. Raj Kumar Rai,** Aged about 31 years, Residing at No. 157, Ground Floor, 36th Cross, 9th Main Road, Opp. M.E.S. Ground, Jayanagara 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 041, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRAVIN KUMAR** to **PRAVIN RAJ KUMAR** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
By this deed I, the undersigned **Thara Sukumaran Nair** (new name) previously called **Thara Suresh Nair** (old name), resident of No. 221, Lakeshore Homes, Off Hosa Road, Next Raksha Hospital, Kasavanahalli, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru 560035 solemnly declare : Sworn to before Notary Puttaramaiah, Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) GANESH** Residing at No.513, 13th Cross, J.P. Nagar, 2nd Phase, Marenahalli, Near Mobility Indian, Bangalore - 560078. Have Changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) GANESH** to **(NEW NAME) GANESAN GOVINDHASAMI** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.11.2024 Sworn Before Notary Mohammed Hussain. K Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) BALA GURU, S/o JC308437F, Ex Sub,M MUNIRAJ, residing at No.376, Muthu Nilaya, 1st Floor, Nagayana Palya, M.S.Nagar Post, Bangalore 560033, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) BALA GURU** to **(NEW NAME) M.BALA GURU** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KAVITHA**, D/o. GOPALDASS.G, RESIDING AT #66, 5TH CROSS, MAIN CHANNEL ROAD, SARASWATIPURAM, JOGUPALYA, ULSOOR, BEGNALURU-560008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **KAVITHA .G**, VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED: 16/11/2024 SWORN BEFORE NOTARY **L. GOPALAKRISHNA**, BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PACHANGANE ALKA SHANKAR**, Mother of Army No. 13627968M, Rank: L/Nk, Pachangane Hanamant Shankar, R/o Para Record, JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006, have changed my Name to **ALKA SHANKAR PACHANGANE**. Vide on affidavit dated 14-11-24, sowrn before notary Y.R. Chandrashekar, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIYA PAREKH (OLD NAME), aged about 19 years, D/o Dilip Gutraj Parekh, residing at no 60, parekh villa, surveyor street, basavanagudi, bengaluru 560004, have changed my name to **DIYA DILIP PAREKH (NEW NAME),** vide affidavit dated 08/nov/2024, sworn before notary gangaraju. B. N. Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Pravin Raj Kumar S/o. Raj Kumar Rai,** Aged about 31 years, Residing at No. 157, Ground Floor, 36th Cross, 9th Main Road, Opp. M.E.S. Ground, Jayanagara 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 041, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRAVIN KUMAR** to **PRAVIN RAJ KUMAR** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
By this deed I, the undersigned **Thara Sukumaran Nair** (new name) previously called **Thara Suresh Nair** (old name), resident of No. 221, Lakeshore Homes, Off Hosa Road, Next Raksha Hospital, Kasavanahalli, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru 560035 solemnly declare : Sworn to before Notary Puttaramaiah, Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) GANESH** Residing at No.513, 13th Cross, J.P. Nagar, 2nd Phase, Marenahalli, Near Mobility Indian, Bangalore - 560078. Have Changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) GANESH** to **(NEW NAME) GANESAN GOVINDHASAMI** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.11.2024 Sworn Before Notary Mohammed Hussain. K Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SHEELA W/o No.JC308437F, Ex Sub, M MUNIRAJ, residing at No.376, Muthu Nilaya, 1st Floor, Nagayana Palya, M.S.Nagar Post,Bengaluru 560033, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHEELA** to **(NEW NAME) R.M.SHEELA** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GANESH .V.K**, S/o Krishna Reddy, aged about 35 years, residing at #246, Vanakanahalli, Village and Post, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Karnataka-562106. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GANESHA .V.K** to **GANESH .V.K**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **GANESH .V.K** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15/11/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **C.N. SREEKANTA SASTRY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
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CHANGE OF NAME
We, **VIJAYKUMAR KRISHTAPPA SALAPUR** and **ASHMI** VIJAYKUMAR SALAPUR, R/a No.101, 9th Cross, Talakaveri Layout, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560092 have changed our daughter name from **DHRITHU VIJAYKUMAR SALAPUR** to **DHRITHISHA VIJAYKUMAR SALAPUR** vide affidavit dt. 15.11.2024 before Notary **N. THULASI**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ramu Alias Ramachandra Kamath,** S/o. Narasimha Kamath, Aged about 58 years, R/at. No.555, 'Shree Kundodari' Shastri Colony, Hurulisal, Bhatkal, Uttara Kannada-581320, now at Bengaluru, have changed my name from **Ramu Kamath** to **Ramu Alias Ramachandra Kamath.,** vide affidavit dated 15/11/2024 sworn to before Puttaramaiah Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K. Sivaaraju S/o. Kalingappa**, Aged about 59 years, Residing at No. 5/4, 5th Cross, 5th Block, 3rd Phase, Opp. BDA Park, Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Kathariguppe, Hosakerehalli, Bangalore - 560 085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **K. SHIVARAJU** to **K. SIVAARAJU** vide affidavit dated 15.11.2024 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
By this deed I, the undersigned **Dhivya Masilamani** (new name) previously called **Dhivya Jothiswaran** (old name), resident of G 30, Wing 4, Sai Silicon City Apt, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066 solemnly declare : Sworn to before Notary Puttaramaiah, Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru

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Rishab Shetty

KANTARA A LEGEND CHAPTER 1 SETS 2025 RELEASE DATE

The prequel, made on a grander scale and reportedly at a budget of Rs 200 crore, will be simultaneously released in multiple languages

THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED THE DIVINE FOREST WHISPERS

A SHARADHAA

THE cultural phenomenon that is *Kantara* (Sep 2022) has set the stage for its much-anticipated prequel, *Kantara - A Legend Chapter 1*, which has already generated excitement since its announcement. *Kantara* caught audience attention with its unique blend of mythology, action, and drama, earning critical acclaim, including the prestigious National Award for Popular Film for wholesome entertainment. The film also brought Rishab Shetty into the national spotlight, earning him his first Best Actor at the National Film Awards. Now, all eyes are on the prequel, with the announcement of its release date: October 2, 2025, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.

Kantara - A Legend Chapter 1 will explore the rich and layered backstory behind the iconic deities, which has sparked considerable curiosity among fans eager to uncover the history and lore that formed the backbone of the original film's narrative.

Produced by Vijay Kiragandur under the banner of Hombale Films, the film is being made on a grander scale than its predecessor. While the original *Kantara* was created reportedly on a budget of Rs 16 crore and went on to earn over Rs 400 crore globally, the prequel is set to raise the stakes. Sources close to the production house suggest that the budget for *Kantara - A Legend Chapter 1* could be as high as Rs 200 crore, signaling an ambitious leap in terms of scale and vision. The film will be released across multiple languages and cinemas, aiming to reach a wider audience.

In addition to its theatrical release, the film has already secured a big deal for its post-theatrical digital rights, with Prime Video acquiring it for a whopping Rs 125 crore, making it one of the biggest digital rights deals for a regional film.

Rishab Shetty, the writer, director, and actor of *Kantara*, is once again at the helm of the prequel. Alongside Rishab, a few familiar faces from the original film will reprise their roles, though the full cast for the prequel is yet to be officially revealed. Composer Ajaneesh Loknath and cinematographer Aravind Kashyap, whose work on *Kantara* was widely praised, are teaming up again for the prequel.

The makers of the film, who have already got in into a 60-day marathon shooting schedule, are aiming to set new benchmarks for Indian cinema. The prequel, with its elevated production values and promise of an expanded universe, is expected to tap into the same magic that made *Kantara* a global sensation, and is set to be one of the most talked-about releases of 2025.

Vikky Varun and Hari Santhosh reunite for *Disco*

Hari Santhosh

Prashanth Kallur

Vikky Varun

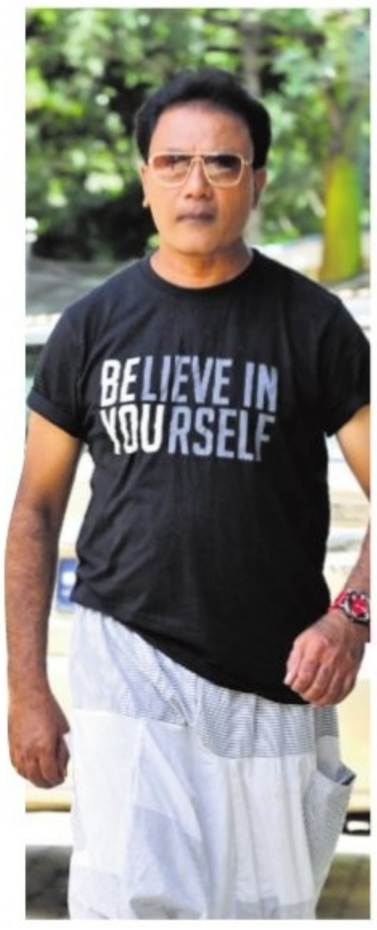
CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Hari Santhosh and actor Vikky Varun, known for their collaboration in *College Kumar*, are teaming up once again for a new commercial entertainer titled *Disco*. The makers are officially launching it today, and we have an exclusive poster to share. Vikky Varun will play the titular character, *Disco*, in the film.

With Prashanth Kallur as the producer, *Disco* is backed by Pen-n Paper Studios, Screen 1st Studios, and Kallur Cinemas. Vikky Varun has written the story for the film, with both director Hari Santhosh and Vikky working together on the screenplay. "It's based on a real-life incident and does not follow the usual filmmaking pattern," explained Hari Santhosh. "The story is sensitive, with a strong plot, and although it was complex to write, we managed to bring it all together in the end."

Vikky, the *Kendasampige* hero, who made his directorial debut and starred as lead in *Kaalapatthar*, expressed his excitement about reuniting with director Hari Santhosh for this project. "I'm delighted to work with director Santhosh again after *College Kumar*. It's a great feeling that he has considered my story for this project," he says, adding, "The character is an updated, unique role that blends extreme comedy with deep emotions, making *Disco* a one-of-a-kind project. People around him call him *'Disco,'* and his journey will be both entertaining and emotional," Vikky added.

Hari Santhosh, best known for his film *Alemari*, has also directed *By 2 Love*, starring Dhanveerrah and Sreeleela under the KVN Productions banner. He has recently completed his debut Hindi film, *Besabariya*, starring Tanuj Virwani, Tridha Chaudhury, and Sapna Pabbi. *Besabariya* is in post production. On the other hand, *Disco* is set to go on floors soon.



Afzal, Sevenraj join hands for anthology *Nenapugala Maathu Madhura*

Afzal has also written the story, screenplay, and dialogues for the film

CE FEATURES

AFZAL, a journalist who ventured into films, began his acting career and then transitioned into film production with *VIP*. He later took on the role of director with *Hosathara*, which is currently in post production. Meanwhile, Afzal has completed directing another film titled *Nenapugala Maathu Madhura*, produced by Sevenraj of Red & White.

Interestingly, *Nenapugala Maathu Madhura* is yet another anthology from the Kannada film industry, featuring four stories centred on four friends. Director Afzal has revealed that the film will incorporate elements of murder mystery, horror, and comedy, all set against the backdrop of today's youth culture.

Sevenraj

The film was shot in locations around Bengaluru, Anekal, and Kengeri. Afzal has also written the story, screenplay, and dialogues for the film. It has cinematography by Swamy Mysore, music by Raju Emmiganur, editing by Karthik Eshwarachari, and background score by MS Thyagaraj.

Afzal plays a major role in the film, alongside producer Sevenraj, who also appears in a significant role. The supporting cast includes Vassishta Bantanur, Ranveer, Rajaprabhu, Vinay, Anjali, Soumya, Rekha Ramesh, Shubha Teertha, Vadhya, Gubbachi, Aravind, Nagendra Urs, and others.

WE BELIEVE A STORY LIKE *MAHAVATAR NARSIMHA* DESERVES TO BE TOLD: VIJAY KIRAGANDUR

CE FEATURES

HOMBALE Films, the production house behind the mega-blockbusters KGF, Kantara, and Salaar: Part 1, is now set to unveil a mythological film, titled *Mahavatar Narsimha*. This animated film is set out to be a unique venture, showcasing a tale unlike anything the studio has created before. The announcement was made with the release of an eye-catching motion poster, setting the stage for a groundbreaking new project, and was accompanied by an intriguing caption:

"When faith is challenged, he Appears.

In a world torn apart by darkness and chaos...

Witness the appearance of the legend—the half-man, half-lion avatar: Lord Vishnu's most powerful incarnation."

Mahavatar Narsimha will be the first tale in the Mahavatar series, marking the beginning of an exciting new mythological saga from Hombale Films. This ambitious animation project is just the start of a collection of stories that will reshape how Indian legends are brought to life on screen.

Presented by Hombale Films in collaboration with Kleem Productions, *Mahavatar Narsimha* is produced by Shilpa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai. Directed and written by Ashwin Kumar, the film features an original score by composer Sam CS, which sets the tone for this epic battle of good versus evil.

The film's first-look teaser gives audiences a glimpse of Lord Narsimha, the legendary man-lion avatar of Lord Vishnu. As described in Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu incarnated as a half-man, half-lion to vanquish the demon king Hiranyakashipu, a tyrant who had plunged the world into chaos. The teaser offers a glimpse of this iconic character, highlighting the divine and fierce nature of the avatar.

A still from the film

Producer Vijay Kiragandur, the visionary behind Hombale Films, shared his excitement about the project:

"We are truly honoured to be part of *Mahavatar Narsimha*. This animated film is created with great heart, faith, and a deep respect for the values we hold dear. We believe this is an important story that deserves to be told. Hindu scriptures are filled with fascinating and powerful narratives, and we are proud to bring the story of Lord Narsimha, the fourth avatar of Lord Vishnu, to the big screen in a way that resonates with today's audience. These stories are the foundation of Indian culture, and we want everyone to experience them in a new light."

Mahavatar Narsimha will be released in 3D, offering a visually immersive experience that is set to captivate audiences. The film will be available in multiple languages, including Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam, ensuring that this epic mythological tale can be enjoyed by viewers across India and beyond.

Akshay Kumar to star in a Ajay Devgn directorial

CE FEATURES

ON Saturday, at an event, actor Ajay Devgn announced that Akshay Kumar will star in a film that he is set to direct. However, the makers of the film have yet to make an official announcement.

During the interaction, Ajay said, "This is something we were going to announce later but I think this is a great platform. We are already working on something together where I'm directing the film, and he's in the film." As they were asked to spill more details on the project, Akshay quipped, "Main script hi bhej deta hu? (Shall I send you the script?)". Ajay added, "It's a little too early, we will talk about it."

Ajay has earlier helmed films like *U Me Aur Hum* (2008), *Shivaay* (2016), *Runway 34* (2022) and *Bholaa* (2023). Ajay and Akshay have worked together in films like *Suhaag* (1994), *Khakee* (2004), *Insan* (2005) and most recently in Rohit Shetty's *Singham Again*. Details regarding the rest of the cast are yet to be announced.